

## **From your Council President – February 15, 2022**

I hope you all had a wonderful Valentines weekend and commemorated Oregon's 163<sup>rd</sup> birthday. This past Sunday, in addition to a big, season ending football game, there was another in-person worship at Holy Cross. Even though attendance was still down slightly, those that did gather heard choir members sing and play the liturgy along with the readings and prayers. Pastor Zieske led us in Holy Communion and delivered a timely sermon. For those of you that could not attend, a video recording of the service is available on the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Salem YouTube channel at;  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>

This coming **Sunday, February 20, 2022, at 10:00 AM**, we will celebrate the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany with a service of the Word led by your church council members. Please come if you are able, we continue to follow safety protocols and sit socially distant and wear our masks. Please stay home if you are feeling unwell and seek medical care if needed.

It is with both sadness and joy for her that I inform you of the passing of Lola Murray as she entered God's kingdom on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to hold her family, in your thoughts and prayers and perhaps take time to reach out to Judy Ruscoe with a personal note or phone call. Memorial details are still being determined.

On the last Sunday of the month, February 27<sup>th</sup>, Transfiguration Sunday, we will hold our rescheduled Annual Congregational Meeting, immediately following the worship service. We will ratify the approved budget for 2022, elect Council members, Synod & Endowment representatives and be introduced to your Transition Team members.

I again include the three questions Pastor Curtis asked the Transition Team to consider between now and our Annual Meeting on FEBRUARY 27, 2022.

- 1) What brought you to Holy Cross Lutheran Church?
- 2) What keeps you coming here to Holy Cross?
- 3) What are your hopes and dreams for Holy Cross?

Our journey through this interim period and into the next phase of Holy Cross will require each of us to listen to our hearts, speak our minds and together discern where God is leading us. Please include your church leadership and congregation in your prayers. Plan to attend the meeting and adding your voice to the process.

As always, please reach out directly to me with any questions or concerns you may have. Hopefully, I will see you at worship services and/or the annual meeting.

Always, your faithful servant in Christ, Bryan Struve, Council President

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
February 20, 2022 – Seventh Sunday of Epiphany**

**INVOCATION**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; † Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation.**

**Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. Amen.

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

**KYRIE** (An expression of God's constant mercy)

Have mercy on us lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts!

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

*Joseph forgives his brothers*

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (*Ps. 37:11*)

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

*The mystery of the resurrection of the body*

Luke 6:27-38

*Love your enemies*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* Love your enemies, and you will be children of | the Most High;\* forgive, and you will | be forgiven. *Alleluia.* (*Luke 6:35, 37*)

### **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 726 "Light Dawns On A Weary World"**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,

and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You bind us together into one family. Teach us to forgive one another and to resolve conflicts with humility and patience. Bless families of all shapes and sizes, and show love to those who are lonely or grieving. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom (*especially*). As you have raised them to imperishable and

eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe.

You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey.

Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food,

and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world,

in the name of Christ our light. **Amen.**

### **✠ GREAT THANKSGIVING**

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The people of our congregation were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

***At this time, you may remember the gift of holy communion with your own bread and cup.***

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. Amen

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.  
Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all,  
strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## **BLESSING**

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,  
who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,  
✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go with Christ into a weary world.  
Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**