

## **From your Council President – February 2, 2022**

Today is 2-2-22, which the calendar will say is Groundhog's Day. I am not sure if Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow or not, and I do not know if an animal in Pennsylvania really can predict the length of a season in the Willamette Valley, but I do know that we are not repeating the last few weeks for another Sunday.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church **WILL** be holding in-person services this Sunday, February 6, 2022, at 10:00 AM. While there is still a bit of a debate on whether Oregon has reached the crest of the recent Omicron COVID wave, there is a sense that the worst may have passed and we can meet safely, IF we continue to take precautions.

Again, we will have Pastor Curtis Zieske on hand to lead us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and a couple members of choir will sing the liturgy. Most importantly, after three weeks of not holding in-person services, we can return to the habit of attending worship and joining our fellow church family members in the body of Christ. It is important that we keep our connections strong and communing together is a very big step in uniting in our faith journey.

We will continue to wear masks and sit socially distant in the pews. The congregation will not sing, and we will not have any fellowship time with coffee or cookies following service. If you do not feel well, please stay home and seek medical care if needed. We will be recording the service and posting it to our YouTube channel on Monday.

Despite not holding worship in-person last week, I hope you were able to view the short recordings of the Prayers and Readings of the Day, along with a sermon from Pastor Zieske. Also included was a short musical piece. These are available on our Holy Cross YouTube channel which is located at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>

Your Council has met via Zoom and authorized the spending of funds on the Sanctuary Lighting Project, a Video Streaming System, and a replacement portable Microphone. This should allow us to move forward with being able to see, hear, and provide content to make your worship experience more fulfilling whether in-person or on-line.

Please "save the date" and plan to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting, scheduled to be held on Transfiguration Sunday, February 27, 2022. We will be electing council positions, ratifying the 2022 budget, and discussing the future of your church with the newly appointed transition team. If you have questions or concerns in the meantime, do not hesitate to reach out to me or other council members via phone, email or through the church office.

Yours in Christ, Bryan Struve, Council President

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
February 6, 2022 – Fifth 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**

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

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**

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels  
and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in  
the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **READINGS AND PSALM**

### **Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]**

*Isaiah says, Here am I; send me*

### **Psalm 138**

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)

### **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

*I am the least of the apostles*

### **Luke 5:1-11**

*Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* Jesus says, Follow me, and I will make you fish for  
people. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 4:19)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 817**

**“You Have Come Down To The Lakeshore”**

## **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.*

Equip your church to proclaim the good news that we have first received:  
the forgiveness and grace shown to us through Jesus Christ. Send us out  
as apostles, sharing the hope of your salvation with a waiting world. God  
of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy are you, O God of hosts. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Reveal your splendor in fiery sunsets and in deep blue twilights. Teach  
us to recognize you in the beauty of our natural world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Soften the hearts of rulers and governments that they perceive and tend  
to the needs of their people. Remove corruption and the impulse toward  
violence. Protect first responders and military personnel who risk their  
lives in service of others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon those who look to  
you for hope and healing. Bless doctors, nurses, social workers,  
therapists, and all caregivers. Draw near to those who are scared, sick,  
or in pain (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The disciples received help from partners as they brought in an  
abundant catch of fish. So strengthen this congregation's partnerships  
with community organizations and ministries (*especially*). Multiply our  
shared efforts and bring joy to our relationships. God of grace, **hear our  
prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for our ancestors in faith who boldly answered your call.  
By their example give us courage to live in faith and to proclaim your  
mercy until the day that you gather us into your glory. 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.**