

## **From your Council President – February 8, 2022**

Good morning and Welcome Back! Those were the first words said during the announcements this past Sunday. It was our first Sunday worshiping together since January 9<sup>th</sup> and it was wonderful to see people in the sanctuary again. Even though attendance was down slightly, gathering together to hear the Word, music, and receive Holy Communion was a needed return to normalcy. 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 13, 2022, at 10:00 AM**, we will celebrate the Sixth Sunday of Epiphany with a service of the Word and Sacrament presided by our interim Pastor Curtis Zieske. Please come if you are able, as we continue to follow safety protocols and sit socially distant and wear our masks.

Another highlight of Sunday was the distribution of the 2021 Annual Report booklet, in preparation for our rescheduled Annual Congregational Meeting that will take place on Transfiguration Sunday, February 27, 2022, following worship. Please take some time and read through the reports and come prepared to discuss the status of our church and chart our future together.

The Annual Report booklets will be available again this Sunday after worship, if you need to pick up a copy. By now you should have also received your 2022 Contribution Envelopes and your 2021 Giving Statements. If you are missing any of these important items, please reach out to Janet or me in the church office and we will arrange to get you a copy.

At the Annual Meeting, in addition to ratifying the 2022 budget and electing council positions, you will be introduced to the newly appointed transition team. This group is charged with assessing the vitality and viability of our congregation and where God is leading us into the future. We are traveling down a unique path, some of which may seem familiar and other parts that are unknown or uncertain. In all of this we travel together, respectfully listening and having empathy for the thoughts and ideas of others.

Pastor Curtis asked the Transition Team three questions, and I will pass them on to you to think about between now and our Annual Meeting on FEB. 27.

- 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 collective responses to these simple thoughts should help reveal the direction we go as a congregation, as a church, and as a community in Christ, in the weeks, months and years ahead.

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

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
February 13, 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 bathein 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**

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **READINGS AND PSALM**

### **Jeremiah 17:5-10**

*Blessed are those who trust the LORD, they are like trees by water*

### **Psalm 1**

*They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)*

### **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

*Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died*

### **Luke 6:17-26**

*Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* Rejoice, and leap for joy,\* for surely your reward is great in heaven. *Alleluia.* (Luke 6:23)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 479 "Welcome To The Hungry Feast"**

## **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.*

Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear. Through your church speak continued blessing into the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of water. Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. Protect rainforests from destruction. Restore land that has eroded after deforestation. Resurrect woodlands after forest fires. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Search the hearts of those who govern, that they lead with humility. Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet. Sustain truth-tellers and social movements that challenge society to become more honest and just. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation. Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty. Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution. Grant peace to all who suffer (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Renew this congregation in our shared mission. As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing, inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers. Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Christ is raised from the dead, and so we cling to the hope of the resurrection. We praise you for the lives of the saints who lived and died in the hope of eternal life with you (*especially*). 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.**