

From your Interim Coordinator – August 2, 2022

There was NO church at Holy Cross last Sunday! Instead, we worshiped with our fellow ELCA and Better Together partner, Christ the Good Shepherd, at their facility on State Street. Thirty-Two members from Holy Cross joined with Thirty-Seven members of Christ for a joint worship service of the Word and Sacrament, presided over by their intern, Vicar Sena Norton.

It was wonderful to see nearly seventy people in one sanctuary adding their voices to the Lutheran liturgy we have in common. Vicar Sena's sermon was thought provoking and very fitting, based on the Gospel reading of the day, Luke 12:13-21. Here are a few notes taken during her message. Why do we find the need to build bigger barns, to store more stuff? Do we cling to the vapors of the past, what WE have toiled for, rather than passing along the blessings that we received from GOD? Are we moving fast to nowhere, is it a meaningless journey? We do not lack for stuff, but do we have a deep connection between people and do we, as Christ taught us, work together to expand his love into the world? Do we choose to be safe and secure with pessimism for the future or approach it, clear eyed and with risky optimism of what could be?

If you missed attending the joint worship at Christ the Good Shepherd, you may watch this and other video recordings on the Holy Cross YouTube channel at; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>

The worship service was just the first half of our time together. After communion and the blessing, we were dismissed to the Gathering Room where we divided up around tables, had refreshments and held the first of three planned community conversations. We had a chance to learn about each other, how we came to these churches in Salem, Oregon and why we find ourselves staying at them. Most important, we confirmed that we are much more similar than different, and all attending have renewed hope and optimism for the future by working together.

As mentioned, this was the first of three joint worship services and community conversations. The next one will be held at Holy Cross on August 21st, and then we return to Christ the Good Shepherd on September 11th. Plan to attend and express your thoughts on the future of your church and ministry in Salem.

Worship returns to **Holy Cross this Sunday, August 7, 2022, at 10:00 AM.** Our Interim, Pastor Curtis Zieske will be presiding over a Service of the Word and Sacrament. All are welcome in our sanctuary this Sunday.

If you have any questions or concerns about the transition and events at our church, do not hesitate to contact Loran or I via email or phone.

Together with you in Christ, Bryan Struve, Interim Coordinator

**Worship at Home - Holy Cross Lutheran Church
August 7, 2022 – Ninth Sunday of Pentecost**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church.
Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you
wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS AND PSALM *God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.*

Genesis 15:1-6

God's promise of a child for Abram and Sarai

Psalms 33:12-22

Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A model for us: Abraham's faith in a new home given by God

Luke 12:32-40

God will give you the treasure of the kingdom; sell all that you have

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 638 “Blessed Assurance”

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

Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence (*especially*). Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you (*especially*). Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation (*specific ministries may be named*) and all who care for those in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,
strengthen us to labor in your field,
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus. **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.**

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life
this day and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God.