

From your Interim Coordinator – August 31, 2022

Attached along with this letter, is the final Worship at Home service bulletin. We started sending these out as one of our responses to the Pandemic when society shut down and we were unable to meet for worship. Now that we are back to worshipping in our building each Sunday, we will no longer be producing Worship at Home. If you are unable to attend our services in person and would like some material to use at home, please contact the church office and we will arrange to get you a copy of the seasonal worship bulletins.

We will continue to keep you informed of events and happenings going on at Holy Cross through our Weekly Email Blast. This will include a letter from your congregational leadership from time to time. Hard Copies of the Email Blast will be available in the Narthex for you to pick up each week at church.

Again, everyone in our church family is important and we do not want to lose contact with any of you. If you are unable to attend worship service in person and pick up a copy, please reach out to the church office.

Last Sunday we celebrated the Endowment Committee giving out nine (9) scholarships to young adults attending college. Over fifty people attended our worship service and enjoyed a reception with cake afterwards.

This **Sunday, September 4, 2022, at 10:00 AM** we will be “Laboring with the Lord” as we hold a short Service of the Word to commemorate the Labor Day holiday, the end of summer vacations, the State Fair, and the restarting of the school year. All are Welcome, please come if you are able.

As the school year commences, so does the restart of our Choirs and Bible Study. Please check the email blast for date and times.

Also, please note that we will hold our third joint service with Christ the Good Shepherd on Sunday, September 11th. This third service will be held at Christ the Good Shepherd, 4440 State Street. Plan to attend and express your thoughts on the future of your church and ministry in Salem.

Also, please continue to **respond to the Member Contact Information Form** that we sent out earlier and update your email address and contact information. You may reply via email, call the church office, drop it off on Sunday or mail in your response. Thanks for keeping us connected to you!

As always, 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
September 4, 2022 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

We have harmed your good creation.

We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction.

Show us the path that leads to life.

Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Walk in the way of life and hold fast to God

Psalm 1

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

Philemon 1-21

Paul says: Receive Onesimus as a coworker

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus says: Disciples, give up your possessions and carry the cross

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 808 “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

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

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors (*especially Peter Claver, priest and missionary*). Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **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

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, † one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.