

June 9, 2020

Dear Holy Cross Lutheran Church family;

Welcome to June. It has been several months now since we last met in person to break bread together, rejoice in singing praises to God and in hearing his word. While these activities have been replicated with our best efforts on a remote basis, we still miss the fellowship of seeing one another, passing the peace and growing in the Spirit together as a community.

As governmental benchmarks and restrictions ease, it is time for us to consider how we go about reopening our building to allow in-person gatherings for our church family while remembering to be a reflection of Christ. Let us be good stewards to all of God's creation, which includes the health and well-being of our fellow members. We have seen examples of other churches opening around the country and have the opportunity to learn from their experiences. Remember 1 Corinthians 10:23; "All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful, but not all things build up."

Both the national and regional synods have provided guidelines and checklists to follow for properly preparing areas of the church for use. What that looks like and when that occurs is up to each individual congregation. A few of the methods suggested so far are: Drive-thru communion, parking lot church with lawn chairs and loudspeakers, meeting around tables in the fellowship hall or seated in hardwood pews in the four corners of the sanctuary.

With that in mind, your church council is forming a reopening task force to be charged with reviewing these reopening guidelines, developing a strategy and enlisting volunteers to make it safe and successful for all involved. **If you would like to be part of this planning task force or would like to volunteer your efforts in any of the many jobs that will come from it, please call either the church office at 503-364-6041 or Council President Bryan Struve at 541-971-0035.**

Remember that our church family encompasses a wide spectrum of ages, personalities and medical conditions; from those that are frightened by what they have seen or heard during this pandemic to those that feel it is no big deal. Our job is to find a way to bring our community back together in a safe, healthy way and to allow all to enjoy the fellowship of being one together again (physically) rejoicing in Christ's presence.

Please continue to pray for your church and fellow family members and thoughtfully consider being part of this reopening team. While we work through the reopening process slowly and carefully (too slow for some and too fast for others) continue to be the hands of Christ, represent the message Jesus gave us and be good stewards of his creation through your time, talents and treasures. Good stewardship includes safeguarding his greatest treasure, you and your family.

Your servants in Christ, the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Council

Coming up soon for Holy Cross June 9, 2020 –

This week (Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm – “What is God Saying Today” a bible study/conversation on Zoom meets to talk about our theme for the summer – “Searching for Significance”. We will look at Genesis 18:1-15, the encounter of Abraham with the 3 men who are the Lord. We are all searching for significance in our lives, in small ways or large ones. In this time of uncertainty, and change, how can you be authentic to God’s call? Join us on zoom - Meeting ID 782 5295 9541 Meeting Password **9ZvcXn**

**If you’re having trouble connecting to zoom, call Janet in the office 9 -1, and she will be glad to help!**

The letter from Council talks about a re-opening plan, and a re-opening task force. If you want to be part of that small team, please call the **office 503 364-6041**, or call president Bryan Struve **541-971-0035**. **We’re moving quickly on assembling this group, and making a plan.**

*Commemoration of the Emanuel 9 –please see the included invitation to this worship on zoom Wednesday, June 17, 6 pm.*

Manuel Borbon, our friend and collaborator, **will be Ordained this Saturday, June 13th**, and You Are Invited! Join us virtually for Manuel Borbon’s Pastoral Ordination this coming Saturday, June 13th at 4:00pm (PT). The service will be live-streamed thru Immanuel Lutheran Church’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/immanuelilverton>

<https://www.youtube.com/immanuelilverton> We are all so thrilled to see Manuel achieve this milestone, through the grace of God.

Membership news! We are waiting until we have an in person worship to welcome new and returning members to Holy Cross. Do you know someone who has been planning to become a member? Let them know to contact Pastor Patricia at the office or her cell phone 5035109976. Our celebration that day will resound with joy!

Blessings to you all, this day, and every day –

Pastor Patricia+

**WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN - THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY ELW 588**

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings

have such kindly judgment giv'n.

- 2 There is welcome for the sinner,  
and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.
- 3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

#### **Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]**

*The LORD appears to Abraham and Sarah*

#### **Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19**

I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

#### **Romans 5:1-8**

*While we were sinners, Christ died for us*

#### **Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]**

*The sending of the Twelve*

### **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 (see attached prayers)**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.  
**Amen.**

#### **THE 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. As you worship in your homes, we remember the gift of communion that we share.

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.***

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

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

**LIFE IS SHORT  
AND WE DO NOT HAVE  
MUCH TIME TO  
GLADDEN  
THE HEARTS  
OF THOSE WHO  
TRAVEL WITH US  
SO BE SWIFT TO LOVE  
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND  
AND GO IN PEACE  
TO LOVE AND SERVE  
THE LORD**

## **Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Sermon for Holy Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020**

Well, a lot has changed since last Trinity Sunday, not just the COVID-19 pandemic under which we live. But also, the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed, handcuffed black man by a white police officer in Minneapolis. Just a few weeks ago, we learned, many of us, of the shooting of Ahmaud Arbery, but since that time, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon "Sean" Reed, Tony McDade have also been killed. And how many others whose names are known only to their families and to God? Today is Trinity Sunday. It's a hard holiday for us to wrap our minds around it's a difficult, a difficult concept.

But, we learn about the Trinity, particularly in today's first lesson from Genesis. In this beautiful song of creation, we hear, "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep. And a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." God said and creation began. Martin Luther put it this way, "So also the Christian Church agrees that in this description there is indicated the mystery of the Holy Trinity, Father created through the Son who Moses called Word, and over this creative work brooded the Holy Spirit. Later, God says, "Let us make humankind in our image."

This is the glorious relationship with God that spills out into all creation. God is not a lone ranger. And all of God shows up, all of God shows up, delighting in creation, caring for creation, weeping for creation, redeeming creation. I confess that I do not fully understand or even have language to describe the mystery of the Trinity, probably won't until I finished my baptismal vocation and stand in the presence of God. I can't explain how, but I can testify to the great Lutheran question, what does this mean? God is relationship. Within God and flowing from God. Creation is God's decision not to look after God's self but focuses God's energies on creation. This Trinity, this God, this relationship is outward and overflowing. God is the one who does not grasp. As we hear in Philippians, "Let this same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as a thing to be grasped. Likewise, the Spirit is poured out on us all. Again, what does this mean?

God is relationship. Within God, with the creation, with humankind and among humankind. And since we are baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, baptized into the Trinity. We are also part of this powerful, dynamic, living, giving, loving relationship, with God, in God, with creation, with each other. We are inextricably woven together. No one is alone. No one is beyond the fierce, tender love of God and God is not far off. God is present in creation, in each of us and in all of us. God is flesh and blood made visible in Jesus of Nazareth and in every human being. God is spirit, closer than our own breath. And this is how God as Trinity shows up today.

God is creator. God created diversity, beautiful, vital, alive. We must reject calls for colorblindness. That diminishes and washes out God's gift of diversity. We in the

white majority can begin to see our siblings of color more clearly. We should be color amazed, recognizing the strength that comes with all our many colors and God as creator made all of us in God's image. "Let us make them in our image" that means all of us are a part of this relational triune God who did create all of humankind, each and every one and all of us together, in God's image, all.

And God is the word made flesh. Our flesh, your flesh, my flesh, George Floyd's flesh. Jesus in his passion still suffers with those who suffer. The crucifixion of an unarmed, handcuffed man lying face down on the street is the crucifixion and the passion of our Lord. The crucifixion of so many, too many, black and brown people, who live constantly with the violence of racism, is the passion of our Lord. And God is spirit. The wind, the breath that moved over the face of the deep at creation, the breath of God that was breathed into the first earth creature, Adam. The breath of Jesus as he gave them the gift of the Spirit, the breath crushed out of George Floyd, the breath of life God had given to him.

And now, church, we as the baptized, those of us baptized into the Trinity, show up. We work for an end to violence, the violence of racism that kills bodies and maims souls. And we work for the end of violence brought about by lawlessness and also frustration, masquerading in some cases, as protest. In the fierce love of the Trinity, we do not deny anger. In the face of the reality and inequity of racial injustice, anger is appropriate, is appropriate. But we use our anger to bring about change. We put out fires at the stores, workplaces, churches and property but we ask the Spirit kindle in us the fire of justice. We work for calm and quiet throughout our country, but we remain disquieted as we search deep within ourselves. We work for peace, but not the passive peace that allows the mechanisms of racism and white supremacy to stay in place. No, it's the peace God alone can give that gives us the strength and courage to act.

The Trinity is a relationship, within God, with creation, with us and among us. Until the white majority feels in our soul that the pain and suffering of black and brown people is our own pain and suffering, it will not be safe to be black or brown in America. And until we feel in our own soul that this is our pain in our story, we are not open to the relationship that God wants to shower, share, lavish upon us as a relational God, a loving God, as a God of the Trinity, as a God who has brought us into that relationship and commands us to share that relationship and live that relationship with creation and with each other. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians ends, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all " It's actually a promise and I think marching orders for us.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with us, the love of God is with us, the communion of the Holy Spirit is with us and, together in the communion and community of the Holy Trinity, we can make that a reality. Amen.





*You Are Invited*

## **Emanuel 9**

**A Service of Commemoration, Confession and Recommitment  
Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6 pm**

*As part of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members adopted a resolution designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9 —the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. The perpetrator was a young white man, a member of an ELCA Lutheran congregation named Dylann Roof. Because of this person's affiliation with our denomination, we have felt compelled to work towards recommitment to the cause to fight racism in our midst, and around us.*

Log into Zoom to participate in this worship <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429720238> (also available at a later date in a YouTube recording).

**This service will feature the following:**

- A Litany of Repentance
- “Mourning gives way to purpose” – the arc of the history of racism
- “Close to home” – incidences of racism in Oregon today
- Fishbowl conversation – with Lutheran youth and leadership about racism
- “I just want to live” a video
- Break-out conversations for discussion.
- Theological Grounding – Lament and Reconciliation

*This participatory worship event is sponsored by Better Together, the 3 Lutheran (ELCA) churches in Salem, Oregon (St. Mark, Christ the Good Shepherd, and Holy Cross). Our team is Gwen Carr, Judy Boyd, Pastors Charles Mantey, Shelley Willem, and Patricia Hughes.*

**Praying together at Holy Cross – June 14, 2020**

**This summer, we are ‘searching for significance’ in this life of faith. When the world is full of change, we could choose to ‘lay low’ and wait for things to blow over. Or we could search for our own significance as the Body of Christ. We pray, Lord, for your help and guidance as we journey together toward that goal.**



**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for those in leadership in our country, our state and our cities. May God sustain them and continue to point them to compassionate, quick and well-informed response.**

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for those struggling with physical, mental and emotional ill. Show us how to care for these in these times.** (*specific people are mentioned here*)

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray direction, Lord, pointing us to specific actions where we may be part of the solution, and not the problem.** (*specific people are mentioned here*)

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for learners of all ages – help us to absorb new information, and use it to your glory.** (*specific people are mentioned here*)

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for those feeling the isolation of our times profoundly. Comfort them.** (*specific people are mentioned here*)

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**For this and all those matters, circumstances and individuals whose needs are brought to mind at this time.** (*specific people are mentioned here*)

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for Holy Cross leadership as we plan the reopening of our place of worship. Thank you, Lord, for loving us. It is what makes all the difference. Amen.**