

## **Created for Community – Lent at Holy Cross, 2021**

***This lent, our focus is on community – What is God calling us to be about in our community? The Gospel of Mark facilitates our conversation.***

### **Events and more at Holy Cross February 23, 2021**

*Well, that was a different week, wasn't it?*

*I was touched this week by the compassion shown by our community surrounding the horrific ice storm and power loss in our corner of the world. The devastation in other parts of the country left us stunned. And we heard about suffering as well as progress by our own congregants as they deal with illness and loss.*

**Here's your link for the Wednesday Lenten Worship (same link every week)** Topic: Created for Community: Lenten Wednesdays at Holy Cross

**Time: Feb 24, 2021 06:00 PM** Pacific Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89578947810?pwd=ZWZWT2NXcjZlNk9rMXRwdm9GTHIzZz09> Meeting ID: 895 7894 7810 Passcode: 611757

We mailed the Lenten worship folder out last week – you can use it every week – either Alone, or on the zoom worship. Either choice is a fine choice.

**Thursday**, This week, **What is God Saying Today?** Will cover Mark 8:31-38. Join us at noon in person (socially distanced, masks required) or at 5 pm on Zoom. Topic: What is God Saying today? **Time: Feb 25, 2021 05:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SlJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09> Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008 Passcode: 569519

**Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am – Worshipping in the Gym (socially distanced, masked and bring your own bread and wine). You must RSVP for this event (even more important now as we begin to make plans for Holy Week)**

*This week, our FLY Kids 'punted' when Shrove Tuesday had to be cancelled due to ice, and no power in so many places. Instead, they put together pancake kits in the church, (Thrivent paid for the supplies) and distributed them along with mardi gras beads to the Drive Up Communion crowd (and neighbors and friends).*

*Our Youth are the best! Thank them all won't you? Chloe (who is our graphic artist, too), Cole, Clay, Caleb and Natalie (and their helper, Evan) along with their parents!*

**See the enclosed flyer about an Easter Dinner opportunity for you! And many blessings to you always! – Pastor P**

**Pay Attention** - Do you like short sermons? Or long ones? I see you smiling there. You are probably thinking, I like Good sermons. But, all things being equal, two good sermons, I'll take the shorter one. There's something about brevity that makes an impression. Well, friends that's the Gospel of Mark. And this year we're reading from that Gospel many Sundays – some times from John but that's because Mark is so short! And this week we listen to the familiar story, which we hear every year on the first Sunday of Lent – of Jesus being driven into the wilderness, where he is tempted by the devil. That same story is in Matthew and Luke, but much much longer, with lots more detail, so much detail you could make a movie out of just those accounts. And I know you're thinking about those details right now, a lot of you who know your bible pretty well, but don't do that. Stay in Mark. Here's why. Mark is Sargent Joe Friday to me so often – just the facts ma'am, he says when someone gets wordy. What are the facts? This is the Son of God, pay attention. Every week, in Bible study I have been saying that – it is the essence of the Gospel of Mark. Just the facts. But this reading today gives us those facts – right between the eyes – first – the Baptism, which we read before in early January – Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan, and comes up out of the water, to see the heavens ripping apart and the voice of his father – “You are my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[a]</sup> with you I am well pleased. This is Power demonstrated. God – the God of all – exposes Jesus to be who he is – God's Son – Pay Attention! Next, right after the baptism, the spirit DRIVES him into the wilderness – with the wild beasts, and Satan Tempts him. And the Angels Wait on him. This is power – to be alone, in a desolate place, a place where nothing is the same, and every moment can be frightening – and to withstand the tempting of the devil, while the angels hang out with you. This is Power. Even in frightening, upside down times. God's Son will survive 40 days on his own surrounded by evil. Pay Attention. Next, Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news<sup>[b]</sup> of God,<sup>[c]</sup> 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;<sup>[d]</sup> repent, and believe in the good news.” Do you see what's happening? Earthly powers – the Romans, Herod and his ilk are shutting down this ministry in every way they can. They want the power, they aren't even going to entertain the idea that power can rest in anyone else or in any other possibility. So John is arrested but the movement goes forward, with Jesus' ministry in Galilee maybe not on the doorstep of the Herodians, but listen to what he says – the Time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news. Its about Power. Pay Attention. Friends, here's the message for our day and our time from the mouth of Mark the Gospel writer – Yes, you're enduring a terrible time. Disease, political shenanigans, wildfire, and now ice storms are the order of the day. The numbers of homeless are rising, the number of unemployed is skyrocketing and the hungry yearn to be fed. You and I Serve a God of Power. I don't know much, but I know that some of the things we've lost – seeing our loved ones, gathering for coffee and cake in the narthex after worship, receiving communion from the hands of your pastor, maybe these things needed to take a step back for awhile. Because our neighbors need us. They are hungry. They are cold. They are unemployed. They are crying out for help. And We have access to the Power of God –remember that? Mark's been trying to tell us. Power that is greater than the devil, greater than the earthly powers who think they run the world. What will we do about these great needs? We are Created for community my friends – to be part of a community, and to care for that community with the Power of God. I think its about darn time we act like it. Just the facts ma'am. We serve the Son of God Pay Attention! Amen. – Pastor Patricia Hughes

## **“You have a place at the table! All are welcome!”**

In 2019 and early 2020, Holy Cross began to explore the possibility of becoming a “Reconciling In Christ” (RIC) congregation. A diverse group of members had expressed an interest during some committee meetings, the council and congregation was made aware of the interest, and a committee was formed to formally explore this possibility. That committee met, gathered information, questioned, learned and shared with the congregation along the way. And then, the pandemic hit. And like many things in our life, the RIC discussion was put on the back burner. The committee had planned that in April and May of 2020 the congregation would meet, discuss, learn and decide if we wanted to proceed to become a Reconciling In Christ congregation. Obviously, we were unable to hold those discussions and no decision was made.

So, here we are. A year later. And ready to bring this conversation to the forefront once again. I would like to take some time to share with you again, some of the basics about the RIC designation and again provide the opportunity to discuss this as a congregation and, eventually, to make a decision as the Holy Cross Congregation.

**What does Reconciling In Christ mean?** Reconciling In Christ began in 1983, as a way to recognize Lutheran congregations, synods, seminaries, and organizations that welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Where all people can find safe, nurturing and affirming settings in which to worship and learn. By the way, the ELCA does not stand alone. Other denominations have Welcoming Church Programs as well, including, the Episcopal, Presbyterian, American Baptist, Disciples of Christ, and United Methodist Churches.

**Why is this important for Holy Cross Lutheran Church?** If we decide to become an RIC congregation we will develop a welcome statement that communicates who we are as a congregation. It tells everyone that we are a diverse congregation and that everyone who walks through the doors will be welcomed. We invite members of the LGBTQ+ community, who are looking for a place to worship and a place to be welcomed to the table, to walk with us as we all walk our spiritual journey. This could impact someone who in the past may have found the words “all are welcome here” to mean everyone but them. It assures visitors that our welcome is genuine, not a hollow gesture and has no “strings attached”.

**What have we done so far?** In late 2019 a committee was formed to explore becoming an RIC congregation. That committee consisted of Paula Fanshier, Jeff and Julie Sargent and Margo Jensen. We met and discussed the RIC designation using the document “Building an Inclusive Church”. That document can be downloaded at <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/bic/>. Paula and Margo attended a training in RIC in Portland and the committee used what we learned to move forward. We shared information with you at several short talks on Sunday, had a larger congregational discussion after church, and Pastor Patricia focused one of her Bible studies on RIC and what the Scripture tells us. This Bible study confirmed for us that Matthew 22:34-40, are the key verses that we lean into as we move forward in the RIC discussion.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” And “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

So, here we are once again. Ready to continue our discussions, and questionings and conversations. And, ultimately, to make a decision as to whether we believe Christ is asking us to be a Reconciling In Christ congregation. We don’t know exactly what that will look like during this time of the pandemic. But, we will devise a way to make it happen. Please be ready in the next couple of months to participate in making this decision. All of our voices need to be heard. We are pretty sure you know what our voices are saying, but your voice is important as we finalize our decision. This decision will be made by the entire congregation and we will honor whatever the congregation decides to do.

Your RIC Committee,

Paula Fanshier

Margo Jensen

**WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**February 28, 2021**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.  
Holy God,

**you search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.**

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow  
your outward way of love.**

**We distrust those who are not like us.**

**We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,**

**for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,  
you know them;**

**receive them in your divine mercy.**

**Amen.**

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,  
our sins are washed away  
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,  
we are called to be the beloved community  
living out Christ's justice  
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN – ELW 798 “Will You Come and Follow Me”**

- 1 "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?
- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

#### **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

*God blesses Abraham and Sarah*

#### **Psalms 22:23-31**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

#### **Romans 4:13-25**

*The promise to those who share Abraham's faith*

#### **Mark 8:31-38**

## *The passion prediction*

### **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 power of 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**

**THE PRAYERS** of Intercession (see attached prayers)

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us:  
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.  
Nourish us anew in your tender care,  
and empower us in faithful service  
to tend to others with this same love,  
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **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. 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**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Christ Jesus,  
at this table we have feasted on your very life  
and are strengthened for our journey.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
nourished in body and in spirit  
to proclaim your good news  
and serve others in your name.  
**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer  
*Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*  
**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.**

### **BLESSING**

God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.  
**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**



**Praying together at Holy Cross – February 28, 2021-  
Second Sunday of Lent**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. We pray for equitable vaccine distribution, and an end to suffering. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# EASTER DINNER

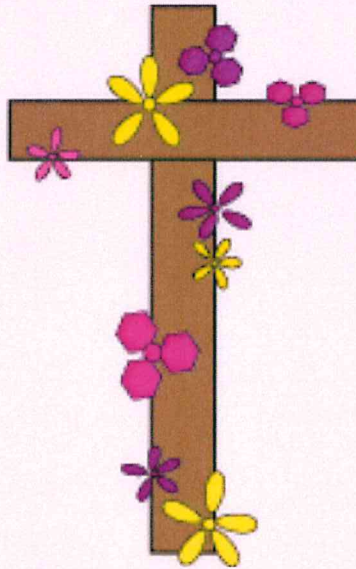
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1998 Lansing

Ave NE, Salem, OR 97301

Dan and Sheila Clausen will be cooking and preparing Easter dinner for the community. The dinner will include ham, potatoes, rolls, green beans, and a dessert

**No Indoor Dining! Just Take-Out!**

TAKEOUT DINNERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 1 PM  
TO 2:30 PM ON EASTER DAY (APRIL 4TH)



**Please Try to Call and Reserve a Meal By  
Noon on April 2nd Because We Need To  
Know How Many Dinners to Prepare**  
To Reserve a Meal, Call the Church at 503 364 6041  
and Leave the Following Information:  
Name, Number of Meals Needed, Phone  
Number, And  
Address If You Need Your Meal Delivered  
**We Will Deliver Your Meal To Your Home if  
You Call the Church And Let Us Know**