

This week at Holy Cross –

We mail this on Tuesday, Feb 2, and on **Wednesday evening, Feb 3**, our Nominating Committee will meet on Zoom, 15 5:30 pm and then our Shrove Tuesday Virtual pancake group will have a short planning meeting at 6:30 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84881521279?pwd=ZHJ4TzBtbk1YOXRhS3BvOHplcVRqdz09> Meeting ID: 848 8152 1279 Passcode: 256328

Thursday, February 4 we will have “What is God Saying Today” Bible Study at noon in person at Holy Cross (wear masks, social distance and if there are more than 6 we move to the gym). **Or at 5 pm on Zoom.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SlJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09> Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008 Passcode: 569519 This week we will study Mark 1:29-39.

This Sunday, February 7th is Drive Up Communion at 12 noon! I hear there is a football game, so if you are unable to join us I understand! Bring your wine or grape juice and bread for your carload. *From now on our Drive Up Communion will be weather permitting (if its crazy cold or rainy/snowy we will cancel).*

Coming up – Tuesday February 16th – Virtual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! (See attached flyer) Your Youth will have Kits for your own Pancake Supper available for you and your family **beginning Sunday Feb 14!** Any Donation will go to our FLY Group going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022 (this group will include this year’s seniors since the gathering is postponed a year). We will have a short zoom gathering to celebrate our Shrove Tuesday together at 6 pm!

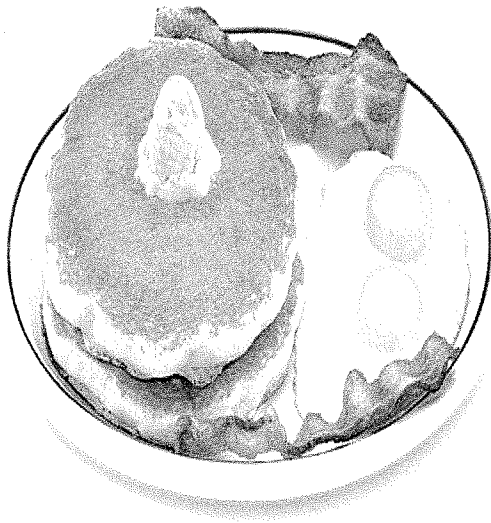
Wednesday, February 17th, Ash Wednesday – We will commemorate Ash Wednesday in a different way in order to maintain as much safety as possible. The Sanctuary will be open **3 – 6 pm** that day, with music, and an opportunity to receive ashes from the pastor, or to apply your own. We will have an opportunity to light candles in remembrance of the losses of this past year. More details next week.

With my prayers and affection –

Pastor Patricia+

Coming Up at Holy Cross

Available for pickup February 14th (after 9:30 worship or by arrangement with the church office): Support your FLY Youth with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper kit!



Your kit will have everything you need to make pancakes at your home and support your youth this year. Thrivent is paying for the ingredients, so all your donations go directly to the youth for their 2022 ELCA Youth gathering!

Topic: Virtual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Time: Feb 16, 2021 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81914641535?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81914641535?pwd=VW1mMFpDZTBFBkFOclVhakxjRjJmZz09)

[pwd=VW1mMFpDZTBFBkFOclVhakxjRjJmZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81914641535?pwd=VW1mMFpDZTBFBkFOclVhakxjRjJmZz09)

Meeting ID: 819 1464 1535

Passcode: 871442

The Voice of Authority - What's in a voice? Just last week, it was so cold, and we had drive up communion, and although I was dressed in my alb, and stole, I also had on my big waterproof coat, and a purple knit cap to keep my head warm. And of course, my mask. Well, I hope he isn't going to mind me telling this story, but Evan, one of our young people, didn't know for sure who I was! I looked pretty different, I guess – all bundled up. And then I spoke to him. When he heard my voice, Evan knew who I was. God's voice is something I have never heard for myself. Even when I felt called by God to enter seminary, it was more of a nudge, and then confirmation of that nudge from people who got to know me, and told me they thought I should go to seminary. But, God's voice is real. The Old and New Testament are filled with references to God's voice, as well as God's actions. Samuel, the prophet of God, is called awake in his sleep, by the voice of god calling, Samuel, Samuel, until Eli teaches him to respond, Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. The Gospel of Mark itself begins with voice – a voice calling in the wilderness – John the baptizer, speaking on behalf of God, immediately points us toward Jesus, the Son - I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' Jesus himself, coming up out of the water of his own baptism, And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' Jesus' ministry begins with his words "repent and believe in the good news" and then to the disciples, "follow me and I will make you fish for people". Voice has been present, and reiterated over and over in Mark. Calling. Naming. God's power is visible through this voice. And we come to Mark 1:21, and we find Jesus in Capernaum, a fishing village, speaking in the synagogue commemorating the sabbath. We don't hear his words, but rather, we hear the reaction verbalized by the hearers – he speaks as one with authority, not like the scribes. And the people are astounded. But another voice speaks, that of one possessed of unclean spirits who says 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' And then Jesus speaks to whatever has hold of him, be silent and come out of him. And it does. I've been thinking a lot about voice, God's voice, our own voices, my voice, since our global pandemic began in March. Early on, health agencies let us know that the spread of this disease is very much dependent on us – they taught us to wash our hands and sanitize surfaces, but very quickly things began to focus on us – and the way we use our voices. Because any germ we have picked up is forced out, and spread through our breath, our voice. The masks we wear are tremendously helpful, of course, but the information began to focus on how projecting our voices is even more dangerous than casual speaking. Singing, public speaking, all project the sound, and the germs we have directly out of our mouths. So, those 6 foot social distance measures must be lengthened when singing or speaking. Maybe its odd but I began to visualize how the sounds we make especially in church actually touch people within that range – up to 30 feet. And then I thought about all those recordings we've been making here at Holy Cross, with the intention of 'touching' people who cannot worship in person – because of the pandemic, or maybe for other reasons. Voice is a powerful thing. Its actually quite a responsibility to speak, to record for anyone who wants to tune in to hear. I want to treat that with a lot of respect, and care. Some might assume because a person speaks a lot, or has a lot of recordings out there on you tube has authority – a big voice for people to hear. But surviving the political landscape of this past year has brought that home to me. Just because a person speaks loudly, or pounds the desk a lot, or demands your attention – none of that gives a person authority. No, I think what gives a person authority, is relationship. I have one more personal story. Years ago, I was in a shopping mall with my children, I think they were preteens, and had gone off by themselves. There came a moment when they couldn't find me, but, then, as my kids tell it. They heard me laugh. With a clerk, or something. And they knew my laugh, even though they couldn't see me. And they found me easily. So, what's in this conversation for Holy Cross? We know God's voice here. I see that in your actions of caring, and your responsibility for the mission God has given you. Lean on that voice, won't you, in the days ahead? God is calling his beloved church to change. That is obvious. How will we respond? Do you hear God's voice? Like my kids heard my laugh across the mall? Let's listen for God's voice, and respond in the days ahead. Amen. – Pastor Patricia Hughes+ 1/31/2021

Praying together at Holy Cross – February 7, 2021- 5th Sunday of Epiphany

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. For ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**



WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

February 7, 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 886 “Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.
- 3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.
- 4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS AND PSALM

Isaiah 40:21-31

The creator of all cares for the powerless

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A servant for the sake of the gospel

Mark 1:29-39

The healing of Peter's mother-in-law

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.