

## **Events for the upcoming Week at Holy Cross – March 16<sup>th</sup>**

Well, Covid through us another curve this week! We had some illness in our leadership so we wisely postponed our part 2 of the Annual Meeting!!! We will meet Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) after worship for the Annual Meeting.

**Please RSVP for:** Worship Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am IN THE SANCTUARY! No singing at all, but lovely bells, and piano, as well as a dramatic reading of the entire story in the Gospel of Mark of Jesus' journey to the Cross. We need to know our numbers for safety's sake. Wear masks, be socially distanced and don't come if you don't feel well. Thanks.

### **This week -**

We are postponing our church Council meeting until Tuesday, March 23, at 6:30, and we will meet by zoom.

Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm We will enjoy Created for Community – a devotional prayer service for Lent. **Here's your link for the Wednesday Lenten Worship (same link every week)**

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

Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> we have Bible study - **What is God Saying Today?** We will cover John 12: 20-33. Join us at noon in person (socially distanced, masks required) or at 5 pm on Zoom. Topic: What is God Saying today? **05:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SlJHN0lkcWhlUUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09> Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008 Passcode: 569519

**Sunday, March 21 – Drive Up Communion at 12 noon!! Bring your elements and enjoy Holy Communion from your car!**

Every week, you can find our 5 recorded worship elements on our website – [www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org](http://www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org) or on Facebook. Bless you all in your Lenten journey!

Consider donating Easter flowers (bring no earlier than March 28) in honor or memory of someone! Easter will be in the sanctuary at Holy Cross at 9:30 am on Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup>! Put it on your calendar! – I am also preparing a recorded service for Maundy Thursday (April 1) and for Good Friday (April 2). Stay Well and be good to each other!

EASTER DINNER info has been out awhile – You know you want some! Sheila and Daniel Clausen are preparing to GO! For everyone who calls in and reserves a meal! Call the office 503 364 6041 today and leave your message. Tell your friends and neighbors, too, ok? Pastor Patricia+

**Lifted Up** - I miss the sanctuary. For lots of reasons, worshipping in the gym has been a safer choice in these covid times. The garden outside is even better, but it is Oregon. And it is due to rain again today. But in the sanctuary, we have in the front of the church, the chancel, its about 6 inches higher than the floor in the rest of the sanctuary. And the ambo, where we read the scripture is higher still, another 6 inches or so. And so when we are about the business of worship the people in the pews, that's you good folks, are looking up, just a bit, necks are up, the angle is definitely up. When we went to Germany, we saw the pulpits of those churches had the preacher 20 feet above the people, sometimes, so looking up for them was an understatement. The Gospel today begins And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up. You see, the story out of the old testament book of numbers is an important baseline for us. People have been bitten, and are dying from the bite of a poisonous snake, it's the time of the great exodus of the Jews from Egypt, and Moses is their leader. But he cannot save them from these poisonous bites. And the Lord God tells Moses to make a serpent out of bronze, and lift it up on a pole for all the people to see. The backstory about this is very old testament. The people had been grumbling, and complaining about God's leading them through the desert. God sends the snakes among them. And they suffer. But it's been a hard year for Israelites, and they realize now their own willfulness, their own rejection of God's love and care. Therefore, the bronze snake is lifted up, and the people who are dying from the venom of these awful snakes, will look up and live.

It's an ancient story, in some ways almost a tribal one. People will grumble. I grumble. People will resent God's leading. I resent God's leading. I have a feeling you do too. It's been a pretty awful year for most of us, in many ways. Grief. Loss. Uncertainty. Pain. Sounds a lot like the Israelites following Moses. Sounds a lot like the Jews living under the heel of the Roman empire, back 2000 years ago, too. Eeking out a living with very little say about their own life's path, uncertainty is the only certainty. Grumbling. It's everywhere in the gospels. But then we come to John the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter – And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up. Those who are suffering, those who have been grumbling, look up and live. And gaze on Jesus the Son of Man, not a symbol made of bronze, but a living breathing, hurting, bleeding person, who will suffer and die willingly, for these grumbling people. For you and for me. It is the person of Jesus Christ, the blood and flesh, the breathing and the living person, God taken on human form completely, with all the pain and wonder that entails. This human being, whose life we follow as we read the gospels, is the same one who will do the dying. So that we don't have to. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so must the Son of Man be lifted up. It's lent, my friends, after a year of loss and death. There is a sunrise coming, Easter is just weeks away. In our Lenten Journey, we walk through these realities of grumbling, and pain, loss and sacrifice, to bring us to worship together, looking up, not at me, or even at the altar, but at the person and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Why? Why does God do this for us? "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. New Life in Christ. That's why we gather, my friends. That's the message we carry to the world. Amen – *Pastor Patricia Hughes*

**WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 21, 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 660 “Lift High the Cross”**

### *Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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**

#### **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*A new covenant written on the heart*

#### **Psalms 119:9-16**

I treasure your promise in my heart. (Ps. 119:11)

#### **Hebrews 5:5-10**

*Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation*

#### **John 12:20-33**

*The grain of wheat dying in the earth*

### **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 – March 21, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

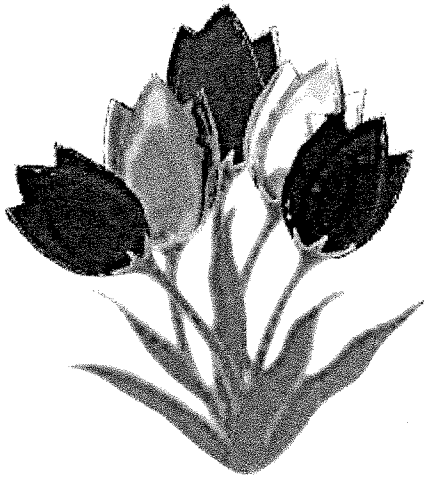
In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting.

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.**





*Please bring in spring flowers for the altar no earlier than Palm Sunday - March 28th.*

*You are not limited to lilies! Bring whatever makes you happy!*

Flowers Donated by:

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In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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Please turn this slip in to the office so your generosity can be recognized. Thank you!