

**Events for the upcoming Week at Holy Cross – Holy Week Begins March 28<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday!!!**

**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. Palms, too! **Kids will have a take-home Kids Sermon item for you to share at Home!** 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 -**

*Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm* We will enjoy our last session of - 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=ZWZWT2NXcjZlNk9rMXRwdm9GTHlzZz09> Meeting ID: 895 7894 7810 Passcode: 611757

*Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> we have Bible study - What is God Saying Today?* We will cover Mark 15:1-19. 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=SlJhN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09> Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008 Passcode: 569519

*We are taking a 'spring break' from This Bible Study group after this meeting, resuming meeting on Thursday, April 22, 2021 – studying John 10:11-18*

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 is included in a special flyer in this packet. 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.**

**Pastor Patricia+**

# EASTER DINNER

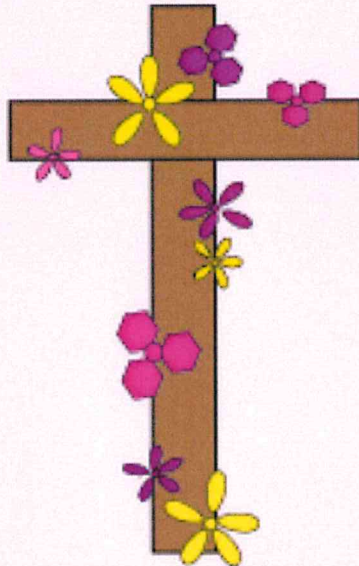
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1998 Lansing

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**

**We Want To See Jesus** - Lent is drawing to a close, and I am preaching another sermon to you, my friends, the congregation I serve and anyone else who tunes in. I have commemorated the season of Lent 15 times as a pastor, 4 times as a seminarian, and 40 ish times as a person in the pews. I know what Lent is about. Purple hangings, and a lot of talking about the cross. Jesus' impending death. And I've preaching a lot of sermons on preparing our hearts for the commemoration of Jesus' death. But, as Fred Craddock says, "If there is a disease in preaching ... it's not that what the minister says is wrong. It's that it is just too small." I don't want to preach too small this year. If, during the preparation for Holy Week, all you remember is that Jesus is to die, I've done it wrong. Because Jesus is going to live. Always. Those brief 3 days in the tomb are nothing compared to the enormity of Jesus' resurrection. But, you are thinking right about now, wait, is she preaching an Easter sermon? This is lent, darn it. We aren't there yet. But, if there's one thing I've learned from studying and preaching God's word, is that you just can't preach the resurrection enough. In John 12, the Greeks come to town (its Jerusalem and it's Passover, so everybody's in town) and they say, "Sir, we want to see Jesus". This whole passage is the answer to that request, that desire, that yearning to see Jesus. A long time ago in seminary one of my professors said to us, if you're preaching a sermon and the people only see you- you're doing it wrong. The whole point of preaching a sermon is for the congregation to look through you to see Jesus. That's the point. The only point. But the point goes further than you nice people looking through me to see Jesus. The point is for the whole world to look through you and to see Jesus. In your actions. In your heart. In your service. We are to be transparent actors in this holy story. Jesus is the actor.

The account in John 12 is a small field trip into Jesus' motivation, and the action he takes with each of us as the beneficiary. Do you remember that in John's gospel, Lazarus is raised from the dead? That's in chapter 11, and this extraordinary power, obviously from God, is what sets the powerful on a path that leads directly to Jesus' arrest, trial, scourging and death. Which Jesus knows will happen. Here's John 12 -Jesus is speaking *The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.* <sup>24</sup>*Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.* We had a big ice storm around here a few weeks ago, power was out for days, water too, and the trees that came down – branches, and whole trees – well its been stunning to see the carnage – mostly oaks it seems, lost huge limbs, or the weight of the ice uprooted the whole tree, as it fell to the side exposing a huge spread of roots. We've seen heavy machinery, teams of folks with chainsaws, and lots and lots of backyard burnpiles have been going any time its not raining. But I've noticed how hopeful everyone looks. We're just cleaning up the mess to see what the new growth will look like. Yes, we lost some beautiful trees, but there is already new growth. Some branches we cut off of the plum tree in my backyard that took a big hit during the storm are blooming in the garage right now! Life. The force of life is strong. I think that's the point Jesus wants to make. Yes, he is preparing to die, because he is faithful to his Father God no matter what. But, there will be new life, there is new life so fast on the heels of this death. Jesus' body will give out, and will lay there for 3 days, dead. But the rebirth is real, the resurrection is real, and has been going on ever since. You and I are beneficiaries of that new birth. Sir, we want to see Jesus. The world needs to see the resurrected Christ, and you and I are the way that happens. Let the world see the glory of God, in your life. Live for others. Care for others. Let selfishness within yourselves die. And Christ is glorified. Amen. – Pastor Patricia+

**WORSHIP**  
**WITH HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Palm Sunday - March 28, 2021**

**The Last Days and Death of Jesus** (As Recorded By Saint Mark.)

**The Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem**

**Narrator** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

**Jesus** "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'"

**Narrator** They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked,

**CROWD** "What are you doing, untying that colt?"

**Narrator** They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, Hosanna!

**CROWD:** Prepare ye, the way of the Lord –Prepare ye, the way of the Lord.

**The Plot Is Made**

**Narrator** Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him.

**High Priest** "But not during the Feast or the people may riot."

**Narrator** Then one of the Twelve-- the one called Judas Iscariot-- went to the chief priests.

**Judas** "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?"

**Narrator** So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said,

**Jesus** "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me-- one who is eating with me."

**Narrator** They were saddened, and they said to him,

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.**

### **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.**

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Narrator** When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **A Prediction & Denial**

**Jesus** "You will all fall away, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

**Peter** "Even if all fall away, I will not."

**Jesus** "I tell you the truth, today-- yes, tonight-- before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times."

**Peter** "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."

**Jesus** "Am I leading a rebellion that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."

**Narrator** Then everyone deserted him and fled. A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

### **The Kangaroo Court**

**Narrator** They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:

**CROWD** "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'"

**Narrator** Yet even then their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them.

**High Priest** "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"

**Narrator** But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

**High Priest** "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

**Jesus** "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

**Narrator** The high priest tore his clothes.

**High Priest** "Why do we need any more witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

**Narrator** They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

### **Another One Fails Jesus**

**Narrator** While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

**Servant Girl** "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,"

**Pilate** "Why? What crime has he committed?"

**CROWD** "Crucify him!"

**Narrator** Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

### **The Fruit Of Betrayal**

**Narrator** When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders.

**Judas** "I have sinned. For I have betrayed innocent blood."

**Chief Priest** "What is that to us? That's your responsibility."

**Narrator** So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

### **The Crucifixion**

**Narrator** The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

**Narrator** A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him.

**Narrator** Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. It was noon when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads.

**CROWD** "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!"

**High Priest** "He saved others but he can't save himself! Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe."

## **Praying together at Holy Cross – March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified.

Hear us, O God.

### **Your mercy is great.**

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth.

Hear us, O God.

### **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need.

Hear us, O God.

### **Your mercy is great.**

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer, especially from Covid-19; grant respite and renewal.

Hear us, O God.

### **Your mercy is great.**

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief.

Hear us, O God.

### **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead.

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.**

