

Events for the upcoming Week at Holy Cross – March 30th

Holy Week is on! Here at Holy Cross we have opportunities in many forms – in this mailing we have the 3/21 sermon (no room last week – and Palm Sunday is a service without a sermon), a ‘worshipping at home’ sheet for Easter for those of you who will spend your Easter morning at home! Your Prayers for Easter Sunday, and a recap of the Annual Meeting – second part which we held on 3/28/2021 in the Gym (also had some zoom folks)

Please RSVP for: Worship Sunday April 4 at 9:30 am IN THE SANCTUARY! No singing at all, but organ music, as well as recorded litany. 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.

ALSO RSVP to the office – 503 364 6041 for the Easter Dinner no later than the 2nd . Sheila and Daniel Clausen are cooking, and we ask you to pick up your dinner April 4th between 1 and 2:30pm (or call if you need us to deliver it). No charge. A gift to you.

This week – Bible study will not meet. Created for Community (our Lenten devotional) has concluded.

Thursday – available on the website – Maundy Thursday Worship and Music

Friday – available on the website – Good Friday Meditation, and Music

Then for Easter Sunday, you can find our 5 recorded worship elements on our website – www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org or on Facebook. Later that day, we will upload the recording of Sunday in person worship to the same platforms.

Consider donating Easter flowers in honor or memory of someone! Easter will be in the sanctuary at Holy Cross at 9:30 am on Sunday April 4th! Bring fresh cut flowers to adorn the Flowered Cross on the front patio, and take a family picture!

Easter is finally in sight! I will take some time away following Easter, to go hiking with my sister in Arizona (she came here for Thanksgiving). I look forward to returning to you refreshed in time for In Person Worship on Sunday, April 18th, at 9:30 am in the gym! Blessings!

Pastor Patricia Hughes+

I have some sad news to report, friends, Lucille Buntjer, longtime friend to many of us at Holy Cross died and joined her loved ones in heaven on Wednesday March 24th. Services are pending at Peace Lutheran in West Salem. May your memories of Lucille comfort you as you picture her with Jesus at last.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1998 Lansing Ave ne, Salem, OR 97301, www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org, Facebook – Holy Cross Lutheran-Salem, 503 364-6041

Recap of the Annual Congregational Meeting(s)

Welcome to Holy Week at Holy Cross. It looks a bit different than it has in the past. COVID-19 has caused many changes over the past year and the complete cancellation of services last Easter.

The good news is this year we are holding Easter service (4/4/21) in the Sanctuary, more details elsewhere in this mailing/blast. **Please RSVP!**

We started off the 2021 Holy Week by having a Palm Sunday service (back in the Sanctuary!) and then moved into the gym for part two of our annual meeting. Part one was held back on January 31, 2021 at which the congregation approved the Proposed Budget for 2021. It has an estimated Income from Operations of \$177,600 and planned Operating Expenses of \$202,350.

This past Sunday we had 34 voting members in attendance and five more logged in via Zoom. After a report from the Nominating Committee and nominations from the floor the congregation elected five council members, two Synod Assembly representatives along with an alternate and committee members for both the Endowment Fund and the Nominating Committee.

A proposal from Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality) was reviewed. They are looking into purchasing the Easter House that they currently lease from us, along with the vacant lot that could be developed into a duplex to provide more transitional housing to families in their program. After much discussion, a motion was passed to empower council to work with Family Promise to explore the possibilities and provide due diligence to this transaction with backing from the congregation.

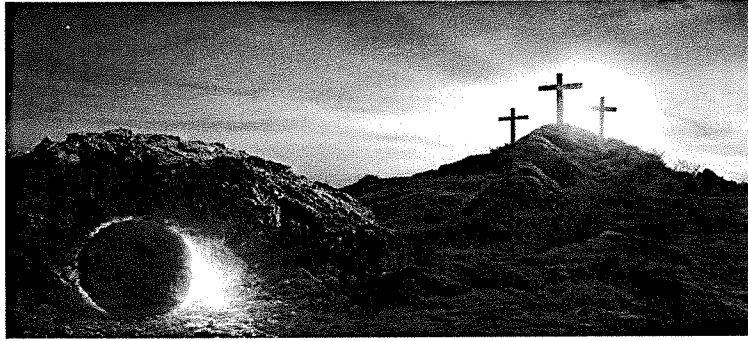
Finally, the future of our church was commented on. Do we have enough resources (both money and people) to maintain our large facility, most of which is not used by Holy Cross? Do we need additional staff and technology to continue to provide the many different ways we are extending our ministry? As society reopens which of those will we retain, and which should be discontinued? What will the lasting legacy of Holy Cross be in one, three or five years?

If you would like the detailed minutes of the meetings, please email or call the church office or reach out to me directly to discuss and questions or concerns you may have.

Happy Easter! Your servant in Christ, Bryan Struve Council President

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.* ²⁴*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+



Hope for a New Day

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READINGS AND PSALM

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: John 20:1-18

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love,
You call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
For the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

Let us pray.

Wellspring of joy,
Through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
And send us as joyful witnesses,
That your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
To know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

Praying together at Holy Cross – April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday – Resurrection of Our Lord

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve. Assure them of your promises.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming: “your mercy endures forever!”

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



**Hope
for a
New
Day**