

Events for the upcoming Week at Holy Cross – Mailing out on April 20th

This week - Our bible study, “What is God Saying Today?” took a spring break, but **will resume in person and on zoom on Thursday, April 22nd (noon in person, and 5 pm on zoom)** We will be studying the Gospel for the 25th – John 10:11-18

Coming up – we will meet on Zoom with Christ the Good Shepherd, and St. Mark’s Lutheran churches for our Racial Justice group – Better Together! That event is Time: **Apr 28, 2021 06:00 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

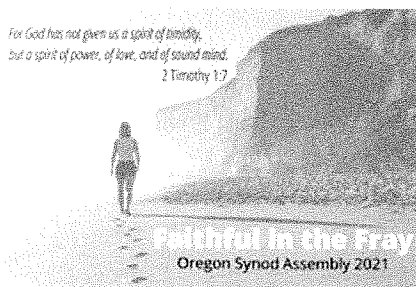
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Meeting ID: 846 7683 6079 Passcode: 403323

*Our next Racial Justice Gathering will focus on Anti Asian racism. Our guest will be Carrie Lee Brown, a retired school counselor. Carrie is Chinese, born in Cuba. She will share of her experiences of racism along with her perspective of the history of racism against Asians in Oregon. We will gather by zoom on **APRIL 28 at 6:00 PM.***

The Oregon Disaster Preparedness Network meets this WEDNESDAY, April 21st at 6 pm on Zoom (Please contact Jan Wierma, at beprepared@oregonsynod.org to register!

Also, Synod Assembly is online this year, If you want to watch the assembly but are not a voting member. You can watch Assembly (April 30-May live on our YouTube channel.



Holy Cross will also have **Drive Up Communion on Sunday, April 25th at noon at Holy Cross – bring your elements, and enjoy Communion from your car.**

Also planned for this week – **a Shower for Sarah and Joe Schultz** as we await the birth of their little boy later this summer. Sunday, April 25th at 2 pm – 4 pm in the garden (we are planning a drive through option if we are rained out!) Give Susan Nyquest a call if you have questions or want to help 503 798-3449.

Every week, you can find our recorded worship elements on our website – www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org or on Facebook. Bless you all in your Easter journey! Please pray for our leadership here at Holy Cross, as we prepare to induct new council members, and thank those who are completing their service on Council! **Pastor Patricia+**

The Eye of the Hurricane - I grew up all over this country, but the Gulf Coast was always home to us – I suppose because my father worked for an oil company, we seemed to always return to the gulf. So, hurricanes are nothing new to me. That doesn't mean I am not impressed, and frightened by their power. In fact, I have been a witness to the power and destruction of hurricanes. Specifically Hurricane Alicia in 1983. I was a young mother, just moved back to the gulf coast, with a house under construction in League City. As the storm drew closer, my family took refuge with my parents, whose Houston house was about 40 miles further inland. That night, we tried to sleep while constantly listening to the radio for updates, and when dawn came the hurricane came over the house, with winds that blew with such intensity, we watched as one of my mother's favorite flowering trees, a crepe myrtle was bent low by the wind, but didn't break. The roots held, as the tree itself, loaded with pink blossoms, which blew off in the storm, bent nearly parallel to the yard. And then the eye was over us, and we rushed outside, with tools, and carefully staked the tree, driving in metal stakes as quickly as we could, to save it. When the eye pushed past us, and the winds began to blow the other way, many plants and shrubs bent to the ground the other way, but the little crepe myrtle was still standing straight, held fast by our quick work while in the eye of the storm. You don't forget the times you are a witness to something amazing, do you? Our world is flooded lately with video filmed during horrific and amazing moments. I wonder if you are like me, and after watching the filmed arrest of George Floyd last year, I often turn away, or turn the channel if the video is going to be played again. Seeing it once was unforgettable to me. It made me a witness to something inherently wrong in our world. I carry that visual with me into conversations about race in our country, about policing, about safety. The Gospel of Luke which we read today is about being a witness. We are in the season of Easter, the time when we join together with the disciples as witnesses to the life death and resurrection of Jesus, the son of God. These 50 days are the time the church declares that we stay in the moment – and share the moment with the disciples – Jesus has been arrested for no fault of his own, tried, and killed by the powers that ruled that time. And he conquers death, rising on the 3rd day, and appearing to the disciples, and more. In today's reading, he appears, he eats with them (no ghost does that), he reinforces that his entire existence has been a fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures, *Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,* ⁴⁶*and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,* ⁴⁷*and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.* ⁴⁸*You are witnesses of these things.* What does it mean for you and I today to be witnesses of these things? To proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins? I think there may have been a time when I thought telling others about God's love and care was enough for you and I – ambassadors from the church – Christ's body on earth. But I don't think that anymore. We are called to step in, and step up – to announce God's love in the midst of turbulent times. To denounce abuse of power, and of God's creation in our time, with our voices, and our presence. These 50 days of Easter – the celebration of the power of God to defeat death, and offer life to those suffering, with houselessness, with hunger, with bitterness and fear. Christ is alive. Just as Christ ate fish in the presence of the disciples that day, we consume his body and blood at his table, declared anew every time we gather as God's people, as God's hands and feet in the world. Jesus came upon the disciples in person in our gospel today, and took action in their presence to spur them to action in His name. In our neighborhood today, we have opportunities to take action again, Church at the Park is looking for volunteers to help with the Pallet Shelter project here in Salem, to begin to offer safety and dignity to those most in need in our corner of the world. Will you volunteer at their shower facility? Or to bring needed food and supplies? How will you be a witness to the resurrected Christ in our local community today? I can't stop thinking about that crepe myrtle tree in my parents' yard, and how the intervention of a few puny humans kept it whole, in the midst of horrific times. And, I have the visual of that crepe myrtle, which the last time I was in Houston, for my dad's funeral 2 years ago, it still stands, it still blooms, a living testament to the resiliency and tenacity possible in this post resurrection life of faith. Amen. – Pastor Patricia+

Fourth
Sunday of
Easter



Hope for a New Day

Sunday, April 25, 2021

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 502 “The King Of Love My Shepherd Is”

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his

and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Acts 4:5-12

Salvation in the name of Jesus

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. *(Ps. 23:1)*

1 John 3:16-24

Love in truth and action

John 10:11-18

Christ the shepherd

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 25, 2021 –4th Sunday
of Easter**

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. Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house 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**



This Sunday's Worship (April 25, 2021) offering (recorded) is a full service recorded and prepared by Lutherans Restoring Creation. Pastor Patricia is featured as one of the participants (Confession and Forgiveness). Links to watch this weekend will be available on the church website, www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org and our Facebook Page – Holy Cross Lutheran – Salem. Bless you all!

