

Events for the upcoming Week at Holy Cross – Mailing out on May 18th

Pentecost is This week

The Last Big Church Festival of the Year– Pentecost! We will enjoy in person worship on **May 23rd in the Sanctuary at 9:30am to commemorate Pentecost (WEAR RED!) This is the day we remember when The Holy Spirit filled the Disciples and they began to teach all nations!**



We will also honor our graduates for this year – in person! Many blessings to them, from your whole congregation!

- Our bible study, “What is God Saying Today” will **meet in person and on zoom on Thursday, May 20th (noon in person, and 5 pm on zoom)** the Gospel is John 15:16 – John 16:15!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SLJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09> Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008 Passcode: 569519

AND, for something completely different – are you interested in this?



*OR Synod Disaster Preparedness Network Gathering
Wednesday May 26 at 6:30 p.m.!*

Register by emailing beprepared@oregonsynod.org

This month the topics include: Revisiting The Basics of Preparedness Planning, Components of a Good Emergency Plan-Templates & Worksheets and Planning NOW for Summer Smoke, Fire, Storm, and Other Emergencies

Every week, you can find our recorded worship elements on our website – www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org or on Facebook. Bless you all in these beautiful Spring Oregon Days! Please pray for our leadership here at Holy Cross! **Pastor Patricia+**

In Our Prayers - The essence of the Christian story is love. Can we all agree on that? The story of Easter is a love story. God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him shall have eternal life. I learned that verse from John's gospel a long time ago, and I remember it in some old fashioned language. But love is the whole point of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and the only point for the existence of the church. Love is the answer and you know that for sure, Love is a flower, You've got to let it grow. Another John wrote that quote - John Lennon in his song Mind Games. On Easter Sunday, April 4th, we read the account in John 20 where Mary Magdalene is walking in the garden, in a daze, because her teacher, her friend, had died and now his body was missing too. 2000 years of Christians have heard the love in her voice, and in Jesus' too, when he speaks to her, and says, Mary, and she says Teacher. It's love beyond the way we humans imagine it. Love beyond flowers and music, all the way to the link between humanity and God that changed the world. Forever. And we read John's gospel every Sunday after Easter (except for the account of doubting Thomas, in Luke) and are drawn even closer to grasping this Love Story between God and Humanity. The account of the Last Supper, where Jesus washes the feet of his best friends, is filled with love, and care. After Judas leaves the table to get those who will arrest Jesus, the love is more obvious still. Jesus tells the disciples about his hopes and dreams for them in the future, and also reminders, that his love will abide, will stay, will remain, long after the things of this earthly life drop away. So what's different about this reading today? Jesus prays. To God. Yes, I know Jesus is part of God and all that, but that doesn't change the love available and present in each phrase of this prayer. This prayer, in John 17, from Jesus to God about the disciples reminds me most of bedside moments I was privileged to witness in my years as a chaplain. Sometimes folks nearing the end of life will say things to a loved one like, "don't forget, Margaret gets the clock that belonged to dad". But more often than not, the conversations are less about things or details and more about memories. "Do you remember?" "I'll never forget" are the way those conversations seem to begin. Jesus knows he will be dead before 24 hours has passed when he prays this prayer with the disciples. No matter that he knows there will be resurrection, death is real, even for him. Jesus' words to them are the equivalent of entwined fingers at a bedside, and last meaningful looks. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I've loved these people, father, I've protected them. I need you to keep protecting them - I know the world will hurt them as its hurting me - but hold them close, Father. Can you see it? Can you visualize the moment when the son of God pleads our case - the case of all disciples - to the Father? They're gonna mess up. Hang in there with them, won't you? Do it for me? Well, friends, you know how this ends, right? We've lived through Holy Week many times. And we know Pentecost will come, and the Spirit will fill humans no better or smarter than you and I, and the church will be created. But, let's take a moment to notice that our brother Jesus uses his last moments to pray for his friends. Over this past year, and truly through life, I've wondered about prayer, and I've heard others wonder too. What good is prayer? Children still die in rocket attacks, and family patriarchs succumb to Covid19 so quickly. Do my prayers make a difference? And what does answered prayer look like? Do I get my wish? Or does God's pattern for living make sense, if only briefly. I have a little plaque on my kitchen sink that says, "A Day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel". I think that's true for me. I pray to keep my own unraveling limited. Why do you pray? Why did Jesus pray that day in the upper room? I think the answer may be - because we must. And God is honored in our prayers. I pray in good times and in bad. Jesus did. I ask in prayer, for what I need to change, for God's love to be manifest. Jesus asked. This last encounter with his friends called for the most important, most tender connection. And so Jesus prayed. I invite you to pray, my friends, in all the tender moments of your lives. You are in my prayers. Amen. - Pastor Patricia Hughes+

Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting Three

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through 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

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

HYMN OF THE DAY – “As the Wind Song”

1 As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing pow'r to the world,

as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

2 As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

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 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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

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.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING (Henri-Frédéric Amiel)

Life is short

and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us.

So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.

And Go in Peace to love and serve The Lord.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Praying together at Holy Cross – May 23, 2021 – Day of Pentecost

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. Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this

life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, fill this congregation with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints.

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.



**The Day of
Pentecost
– The Holy
Spirit
Moves**