

## **We did it – and Love is the reason! – Mailing out Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> turned out to be rainy, and so we met in the sanctuary (masked and socially distant) – with the 43 voting members who were in attendance. Worship had music (yes, the choir, though masked) sang, and introduced us to a wonderful new sung liturgy. There was communion (yes, individual cups in our seats), and there was coffee in the narthex (joyfully enjoyed!).

Then we voted on two proposals – first to sell the Easter House (a property adjacent to Holy Cross where we had a preschool for many years, that we have recently rented as a ‘first step’ for houseless families through Family Promise). Family Promise offered to buy that property as well as the lot behind it in a plan to continue to offer housing in the future. They offered to buy the property as is, with the list of repairs needed topping \$50,000 to make the house usable. Their offer of \$200,000 was accepted by the congregation unanimously in our vote. It seems certain that our corner of Sunnyview and Lansing is headed for more opportunities to assist folks out of poverty.

Then we voted on a proposal to adopt a welcoming statement (full statement on the back of this sheet), which would result in Holy Cross becoming a “Reconciling in Christ” Community – a safe place – for those who have felt unwelcome – the LGBTQ community as well as people from all races. This, too, passed unanimously.

To say that these are joyful, happy steps is an understatement. Holy Cross has reason to celebrate these votes as they reflect our commitment to care for others in the name of Jesus Christ. When you see Bryan Struve, and members of your church council (last year’s and this year’s) tell them you are proud of them and their work. I certainly am. – Pastor Patricia+

This week – Your Council meets Tuesday Night at 6:30 pm, Bible Study is back on Thursdays (noon in person) and at 5 pm in Zoom. (Link in the email blast or call the office). We will study next week’s Gospel Mark 4:35-41. AND Next Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, we will enjoy Drive up Communion at 12 noon in the parking lot. Coming up – Garden worship (unless the rain sends us to the sanctuary) June 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am! – Bless you all and see you then!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

**Mustard and growth** - I brought this photo with me today to illustrate my sermon. It's mustard plants, growing in the vineyards of northern California. In today's gospel from Mark 4, Jesus tells a parable about a mustard seed. It's one of the first stories from the bible that I learned and remembered, probably because I was given a necklace with a little clear heart that held a single tiny mustard seed. "if you have the faith of a mustard seed – just a little tiny bit – it's enough to change the world" Change the world. I wonder now what went through my 5 year old head when I was told my faith in God's love could change the world. I can tell you now, that I believe it. I, like you, have lived through much change in my lifetime. My first credit card was in my husband's name because they didn't issue them to women back then. I remember when my 6 foot 5 father was the tallest person on the basketball team. I remember the first time my class included a black child. Times change, the world moves forward, and sometimes we get to be part of an action that will change the world, or at least a part of it. At seminary in Berkeley, 18 years ago, I was assigned to one of the Lutheran churches in Napa California, just down the road from that picture of a vineyard full of mustard plants. Teaching parish they call it, and I provided 10 hours or more of free labor to the good people there, under the supervision of Pastor David Hamilton. He taught me how to make mistakes and keep going, how to write prayers for worship, and how to sing Holden Evening Prayer acapella. There was another Lutheran church in Napa at that time, and Pastor Carl Pihl served there. The two churches were both focused on service, and ministry to their neighbors. In that part of the world there are a lot of wealthy people, and a lot of people just getting by, or maybe not quite getting by. While I was there, the two churches held joint worship together often, and sketched a plan for continuing their connection in the months ahead. I was able to grow there in that good place, and learn a lot about caring for others. I also began to learn a bit about wine, and many Sundays after worship I would drive by a different winery to learn about wine and a bit of the history. Mustard plants under the vines were a surprise to me. They start to be visible in January and last through March, with a lush yellow carpet beneath the vines through the winter. I asked about them at a winery and was told they secrete a compound that enriches the soil, by repelling nematodes that can harm the vines. Fascinating, I thought, a symbiosis for growth. I heard legends about the mustard, which have been in that part of northern California for hundreds of years – that they were planted by the catholic priests who were planting missions there. One story says that one particular friar planted them so he could remember the path to the remote outposts he visited to bring Holy Communion – he followed the mustard path to check on remote homesteads, and offer baptism and attend to the needs of his far flung people. I had grandchildren at my house the last 10 days, it was a joy to be with them. They enjoyed my gardens, but it seemed to come up a lot that they would ask about a plant – is that a weed? And I would always say, a weed is just a plant that grows where you don't want it to grow. The weeds I pull out of my gardens every week grow beautifully and happily all along the trails we hiked in the gorge and at Silver Falls. The gospel from Mark today contains a moment when Jesus teaches his disciples using the natural world as imagery. "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how" Jesus also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." The people of Holy Cross, in this corner of Salem, have options to grow in front of them today – to plant seed and gather in the harvest another day – through our vote on Reconciling in Christ status – welcoming folks who have felt unwelcome in the past – and also through conversations with Christ the Good Shepherd church to find ways to collaborate and join in ministry going forward. The mustard plants in Napa Valley are a lovely addition to the beauty of their corner of the world, but are so much more – they are in fact a way to nurture the growth of others, through their own lives. I am thankful to be here today with you, as we enrich the landscape through acts and choices of purpose. Amen.

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
June 20, 2021 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

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**

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord  
**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord  
**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.  
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.  
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.  
Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **READINGS AND PSALM**

### **Job 38:1-11**

*The creator of earth and sea*

### **Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32**

You stilled the storm and silenced the waves of the sea. (*Ps. 107:29*)

### **2 Corinthians 6:1-13**

*Paul's defense of his ministry*

### **Mark 4:35-41**

*Christ calming the sea*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 755 "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"**

1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me  
over life's tempestuous sea;  
unknown waves before me roll,  
hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;  
chart and compass come from thee.  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

3 When at last I near the shore,  
and the fearful breakers roar  
twixt me and the peaceful rest,  
then, while leaning on thy breast,  
may I hear thee say to me:  
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

**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**

**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.**

## **MEAL**

### **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,

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

#### **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.**

#### **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, Lamb of God.**

#### **BLESSING - HENRI FREDERIC 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.**

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.



## **Praying together at Holy Cross – The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 20, 2021**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer. Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south. We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your steadfast love may be made known to all peoples.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify your glory.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest. Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us. Remove the barriers that separate us from one another.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our leaders and elders. Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their leadership you may be exalted in this assembly.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your love endures in all situations. On this Father's Day, we pray for those who are fathers or wish to be fathers, for those with broken or strained relationships, for those who are missing their fathers, and for fathers who have lost children. Bless and strengthen them.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**Amen.**



**Hope is  
our  
Mission**