

Events for the upcoming Week at Holy Cross – Mailing out on June 1st

Our Theme for this season after Pentecost is “Hope is our Mission” Can you imagine how Hope can be Your Mission this week?

Our bible study, “What is God Saying Today” is on vacation for two weeks – Pastor is off until June 12th with family in town.

This Sunday, June 6th, worship will be available online, but no in person option is available.

Worship on June 13th, at 10 am will be in the Garden! It will be lovely to be together, in this safer place. The Oregon Health Authority wants us to know that if we are outside, we are not required to be masked, however unvaccinated people are still urged to wear theirs. This will be so great to see people’s faces!! Stay after worship for a brief meeting to vote on two things – our Reconciling in Christ Status and an offer to sell the Easter House and vacant lot to Family Promise to continue their mission of caring for those dealing with houselessness. (there is a rumor we may even have coffee afterward and could chat with our neighbors!!)

Coming up – Can you help? We have 4 garden worships planned this summer (ALL SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 AM!). Here’s the list – Call Janet in the office to volunteer for tasks that still need volunteers!

Dates June 13, June 27, July 11 and July 25th

<u>Tasks</u>
Altar care set up
Usher helper
Setup of chairs
Set up of speakers
Set up of recording
Take down of chairs
Take down of speakers/equipment
Clean up of Altar

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

Pastor Patricia+

Experiencing Hope A long time ago, before I went to seminary, I was a member of a church – just like you folks listening to me today. I was raised Lutheran, but there came a time when I left the Missouri synod Lutheran church, and joined the episcopal church, where I learned new things. And then later, I was introduced to the ELCA, the Evangelical Lutheran church in America, and discovered it was a good fit for me. So, in my life I've been part of 3 different church bodies, but really, a dozen or more churches since I moved so often in my life. And yet they were all God's church, each of them, and I was fed and nourished in God's word. Sometimes I think we Christians think about the church a bit too much. You know, the nuts and bolts of church – what worship will be like, what the governance of the church is, you know. Lately I've been thinking about God more than I think about the church. Maybe its because I'm getting ready to retire, and the day-to-day routine of a church will be less important to me. But maybe its these wonderful readings appointed for today, Trinity Sunday. Isaiah 6 is a favorite scripture – describing the experience Isaiah has – a vision he experiences of God in God's church, and how the majesty of God inspires even the angels, as they sing Holy Holy Holy. For me, God the Father, God creator of all things was all about Holiness. God is so great, so powerful, so transcendent that I am in awe. I certainly can't imagine being in God's presence – or can I? When I enjoy worship in God's house, when I marvel at a scene in nature, Holiness surrounds me. A long time ago (1995) I was in a bible study group after worship at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and we began to study a book, Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby. It turns out that Mr. Blackaby is a Baptist, and not a lot of churches like ours study his book, but it meant a lot to me. Because I hadn't really thought about Experiencing God before – maybe Experiencing church - but not God. God was and is something so much bigger and more powerful and more wonderful than I am, I hadn't really tried connecting, experiencing God. But then I did. I began to picture the relationship between God and me as something bigger than my bible study. Even bigger than coming to church every Sunday, and taking communion. God,-so much bigger, and more amazing than I can imagine, was someone/something I could actually connect to. I could feel God's Holiness when I sang Holy Holy Holy, or when I looked at the stars at night. I could touch God's power, like the power of the Holy Spirit when it spoke to the heart of a man like Nicodemus, who risked losing his very powerful church leader life by seeking out the person of Jesus to learn more. I could put myself in the place of the men and women in the bible who encountered the living Jesus, son of God, and be inspired by his parables, and sent out to change the world. Our Gospel for today is John 3 – which we've looked at before, just a few months ago, but this familiar story feels different to me when I try to experience Nicodemus' emotions, his wonder, and his confusion as he hears he must be born again, or born from above. What does that mean? He must wonder. How does a grown man start over? I think about that when I find myself in a cycle of screwing up, or neglecting my neighbors, and family, of being focused only on myself and my needs and wants. ' 8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Jesus tells Nicodemus. I hear those words in my own heart, and imagine Jesus telling me to imagine bigger – my God is too small. And then he says it "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." My friends, this has been a hard year. You're grieving. I'm grieving. The lives we lived have changed to the lives we are living now. It's ok. God is still in charge. God is still that spirit blowing across the waters, creating the world anew over and over again. It is my prayer for you, on this Trinity Sunday, that you encounter the intricacies of God – Creator, redeemer and sustainer – majestic, human, and ever present. God is within you, my friends. God's love came for you, and will not leave. Be of good cheer my friends. Start Experiencing God in your life, in your family, in your leisure and your work. God is a part of everything – pulling you out of your own selfishness into the work needed to change the world. Hope is our Mission, my friends. Experience Hope. Amen.-**Pastor Patricia+**

Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church

June 6, 2021 – Second Sunday of 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

With dread craft and might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
Ask who this may be:
Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus our Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
If they take our house,
goods, fame, child, or spouse,
wrench our life away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

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

**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.

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,

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.

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Praying together at Holy Cross – The Second Sunday after Pentecost June 6, 2021

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

God of wholeness, we pray for believers all over the globe. Unify us in service of the gospel, that we may work together as beloved siblings to share your love with all.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of the cosmos, we pray for creation; the gardens, waterways and creatures near to us and diverse forms of life that remain unseen. Teach us to treat the natural world with reverence, seeking restoration when human divisions have caused harm to your beloved creation.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all people, we pray for harmony among the nations. Cast out from us unclean spirits of greed and fear, that we may work in solidarity with one another for the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of abundance, we pray for those who are oppressed or in any need. Encourage those who have begun to lose heart. Strengthen and renew us with your Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of righteousness, we pray for this holy house of worship. Set our gaze upon things eternal, that in thanksgiving for your mercy, we may extend grace to more and more people.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of the ages, in your goodness you have sent us faithful witnesses for every time and place. We give you thanks for those saints who now rest in your eternal mercy.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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



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Mission