

Events for the upcoming Week at Holy Cross – Mailing out on June 22nd

Our Theme for this season after Pentecost is “Hope is our Mission.” The word mission always makes me remember the Lunar Landing, and “Mission Control” speaking with Neil Armstrong on that black and white recording on the fateful day, July 20, 1969. Every time we ‘step out’ in faith we are making ‘one giant leap for mankind’. How will you step out today?

Worship on June 27th, 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!!

Our first Garden worship was bumped to the Sanctuary due to rain! Pray for sunshine won’t you? (there is a rumor we may even have coffee afterward and could chat with our neighbors!!)

To make Garden worship happen we need folks willing to set up speakers and chairs, and to take them down after worship. If you are able to volunteer, please let Janet in the office know!

Upcoming Dates for Garden worship - June 27, July 11 and July 25th

Also this week – Tuesday crew every Tuesday from 9 to 11 am, and Thursday noon Bible Study in person, and Thursday 5 pm Zoom Bible Study. If you need the zoom link, let Janet in the office know!

The sad news (for us) this week is that our friend, Arnold Larson, died on Wednesday, June 16th. Services are scheduled for Friday, July 9th at 11 am in Holy Cross sanctuary. RSVPs will be required. At this time, the state guidelines require us to be masked, and distanced in the sanctuary. There will be a graveside service at 1 pm at Restlawn that same day.

Arnold was a Navy veteran, and military honors are planned. Arnold is with his Father in Heaven, now and so he has laid down the burdens of this life. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Every week, you can find our recorded worship elements on our website – www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org or on Facebook.

Bless you all as you take some time to REST this summer! Resting is important to bring us around to vitality for the work ahead of us! **Pastor Patricia+**

The Nature of God –

Today's readings from the bible are about one simple thing – the nature of God. Yep. Its true. Sometimes the sermon, which flows from the readings, of course, are about living your life, caring for your neighbors, living a life of purpose – all good things that we need to hear. But today, the nature of God is front and center. And, before you close this video, think on this – the nature of God is directly related to us because God sets the tone for our lives through God's relationship with us. Okay, enough words – let's move to pictures. Can you picture with me, the disciples and Jesus on a boat on the sea of galilee? They have been busy – healing, feeding, caring for the multitudes that have begun to follow Jesus everywhere. Jesus tells the disciples that he will be talking in parables for those folks, because they are not yet ready for the straightforward speech he gives the disciples. He flatters the disciples a bit there, encouraging them, I think to stand up a little straighter, yep we understand Jesus. We get it. We're not like the crowds – we know the truth about Jesus. And then, picture with me, they are in the fishing boat, out on the lake which is very deep, and storms are intense, and a storm comes, and they fear for their lives. They wake the sleeping Jesus, yes that's right, sleeping, not worried, not fearful, and say do you not care that we are about to die? And he stills the storm. With a word. And the disciples look around at each other and say, "Who is this, then that even the wind and sea obey him." And now we see that the disciples don't understand the nature of Jesus whom they follow. They are very like the multitudes who gather to hear him, gathering joyfully to be near to Jesus the healer, the feeder of many. But, what do they understand about this man, and what do they understand about God? This reading is juxtaposed with a stirring speech from God in the book of Job, which is an ancient book, and somewhat harder to read than the gospel. But, who can fail to be touched by God's words ⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding." God is God, and we are not. Sounds simple doesn't it? But, it seems to me that we humans struggle with this again and again, to our own loss. I'm not promoting fatalism, just giving up in the face of a powerful God, but I am promoting awareness, because I think knowing that God is God and we are not is a very freeing thing. Just weeks ago, we celebrated Pentecost, that day when the disciples finally understood that Jesus had returned to God's heaven, but had not abandoned them, but rather, sent the holy spirit, the comforter, to assist them all as they lived out God's mission on earth. And, that mission is Hope. Hope not just for themselves, nor is it just for you and I. Hope is our mission to give to the world, and the nature of God is key. What does this mean?

Have you ever been really frightened? Like, lost your job and no hope out there frightened? Like, your house and contents burned up in the Labor day fires frightened? I have, and I meet people all the time who are in that moment, or have been in that moment. What is our response? What was your response when it happened to you? These are life defining moments. We are best served, I believe, by feeling the terror, and then putting one foot in front of the other, to take steps forward, past the catastrophe. In his book, *Your God is Too Small*, JB Philips writes, [Some Christians] prevent themselves from growing up. So long as they imagine that God is saying 'Come unto Me' when He is really saying "Go out in My Name," they are preventing themselves from ever putting on spiritual muscle, or developing the right sort of independence quite apart from the fact that they achieve very little for the cause to which they believe they are devoted. Today, my friends, I ask you to contemplate the nature of God. And, the fellowship of the family of faith God has given us. If, for you, as a believer, you can take note that God is God, now and forever, we may go forth in that name, to change the world. With our own efforts. With the support and care of our family of faith. Amen. – Pastor Patricia Hughes

Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church

June 27, 2021 – Fifth 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

Lamentations 3:22-33

Great is the LORD's faithfulness

Psalms 30

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up. (Ps. 30:1)

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Excel in generosity, following the Lord Jesus

Mark 5:21-43

Christ healing a woman and Jairus's daughter

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 733 *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

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.

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Praying together at Holy Cross – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost June 27, 2021

Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer. God of hope, the ministry of your church extends across borders, from nearby neighbors to far and distant countries. Accompany all those who labor eagerly in service of the gospel, that through your good news all might experience transformation.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land that provides our food. Guard all species of plants and animals from harsh changes in climate and empower us to protect all you have made.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, we pray for nations and their leaders. Give them a spirit of compassion and steer them towards a fair distribution of resources; that none among us would have too much or too little.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, your touch has the power to make us whole. We pray for those suffering from physical or mental illness. Embrace those who are sick especially those struggling with Covid-19 and its aftermath. Surround them with your unwavering presence.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly and all those gathered together in worship. Revive our spirits, renew our relationships, and rekindle our faith, that we might experience resurrection in this community.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful ancestors in every age whose lives have pointed us towards you. Envelop them in your love, that we may be reunited with one another in the last days.

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**