

From your Council President – August 10, 2021

Week 2 APP – Last Sunday it was sunny and hot, (and even more of that to come this week!) yet our Sanctuary was cold and dark. We took the week off to grieve our loss of Pastor Patricia as she left her call as Pastor of Holy Cross to enjoy a well-earned retirement. She will be missed.

Now that you have had a week off, it is time to get back at it. As I said in my last message, “Our time of transition starts now.” We begin by having as our guest pastor, Reverend Rebecca Swee for the next two Sundays, August 15 and August 22. On August 29th we will have Reverend Tom Hiller on site to deliver a sermon and lead us in communion.

All these services are planned to be held indoors in our Sanctuary as we begin to return to “normal” following a year and a half of changes due to the pandemic. One of the first thoughts your church council had as we start this transition period is to bring continuity to our church life and renew the relationships that made us into one Holy Cross family. A first step is to meet at church weekly, in the Sanctuary, for some type of worship service as circumstances allow.

This may be a Service of the Word and Sacrament if we have a pastor scheduled to be with us or a Service of the Word if we do not. Music and singing will depend on the availability of a pianist and choir and the current conditions or protocols society places upon us. We may meet and have a guest speaker or conduct verse by verse bible study of the weekly readings or hold a prayer service. All options are on the table during this transition phase and if the last eighteen months have shown, the ability to be flexible and adapt to the changing conditions is key.

It takes many people to plan and produce a church service. You may see the Pastor preach, the Worship Assistant speak, and the musicians perform on any given Sunday but there is also the altar to care for, ushers and greeters to welcome you, coffee and treats to prepare and many other tasks that are needed. What can you do to help? How can you serve? What is God calling you to do?

These are but the beginning as we form our Transition Team to assess the vitality, viability, vibrancy and vision of Holy Cross and our mission here on the corner of Lansing and Sunnyview. Please join me in taking our first step this **Sunday, August 15th at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary** as we welcome Reverend Rebecca Swee for a Service of the Word and Sacrament.

As always, your thoughts are welcome. Please call or email me directly with any questions or concerns you may have. Blessings - Bryan Struve, President

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church
August 15, 2021 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

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

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Proverbs 9:1-6

Invited to dine at wisdom's feast

Psalms 34:9-14

Those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good. (Ps. 34:10)

Ephesians 5:15-20

Filled with the Spirit, sing thanks to God

John 6:51-58

Christ the true food and drink

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 722 "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"

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.

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world. **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**

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

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray. **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. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of hurricanes or tropical storms (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of beauty, inspire artists. Bless those whose visual and musical gifts enliven this assembly (*especially*). Bless the creative work of poets, hymnwriters, composers, painters, sculptors, and others that enrich our worship and daily life. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of resurrection, bring us to new life. Give us the living bread from heaven through which we abide in your love, and on the last

day raise us with (*Mary, mother of Jesus, name/s, and*) all the saints to eternal life. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.