

## **From your Council President – September 28, 2021**

It is hard to believe that this Friday marks the beginning of October! The past two months of PPP (Post Pastor Patricia) have gone by way too quickly for some and too slow for others. As we settle into our rainy season routine, I am pleased to announce that Holy Cross is back on-line!

You can access recorded services via a pop-up link on our church website at <https://www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org>

or you can go directly to our Youtube channel by using the following URL; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-icI8jRhOQ>

or by doing a search in your browser bar for “Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Salem, Oregon”. Once at the site, please take a look and give us your thoughts on the various videos posted there.

This **Sunday, October 3, 2021, at 10:00 AM**, we are again welcoming a guest pastor to Holy Cross. This time it will be Pastor Steve Carlson who will lead us in a Service of the Word and Sacrament. The choir will be on hand to sing the liturgy and provide some special music. As is our practice the congregation will be required to wear masks and sit socially distant from one another. Please join us for Holy Communion if you feel comfortable in doing so. You are welcome to bring your own communion elements if you prefer those to the gluten free bread/grape juice provided. Please monitor your health and stay home if you are feeling unwell.

The past three Sundays have given us examples of the types of worship services we will have going forward. On September 12 we celebrated God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday with a Service of the Word led by a Lay Member and a message from one of our community partners. The next week, September 19, we held a full service of the Word and Sacrament with a pianist and choir singing the liturgy and a guest pastor preaching a sermon and leading us in Holy Communion. Last week, September 26, your church council led a Service of the Word, speaking the liturgy, no singing and a homily presented by a council member.

While similar, each of these three worship services provided contrasts in style and presentation. Much like our current transition time allows for discernment in where our mission is and who are next pastor should be, we are using this time to review our worship and determine what elements are necessary for future services. Please reflect over what you have seen and heard over the past few weeks and provide feedback to your council members.

For those of you who missed last week’s service, I have included Lorraine’s remarks below for your reading pleasure. I hope you find inspiration in the

cited passage and in her words. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is guiding you to volunteer your thoughts and feelings during a future Sunday service.

In closing, note that your council will be meeting with the Bishop's office this coming Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, to discuss getting an Interim Pastor assigned to Holy Cross. Please continue to pray for your church leadership as they make decisions concerning the short- and long-term future of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Do not hesitate to reach out via email or phone with your questions or concerns.

Your Servant in Christ, Bryan Struve, Council President

### **Homily presented on September 26, 2021 by Lorraine Odell**

First, so you can stop wondering and focus on what I am saying...

All summer my ankle has been aching and I found that I had a lengthwise tear in my tendon. So I had it sewn up. If you want more details later, bring me some tea and I will fill you in. In the meantime, I am forced to slow down, so you can see why this verse has been coming to mind.

So, to start...

Be still and know that I am Lord, Psalm 46:10

When this first popped into my head, it resonated with my life. But I wanted to make sure I was thinking about it in the context. And I think I am close enough. My internet search, says that this verse related to stopping a war. To stop fighting and trust in God. Some translations say "cease striving."

One writer says "When we are still and surrendered to God, we find peace even when the earth gives way, the mountains fall (verse 2), or the nations go into an uproar and kingdoms fall (verse 6). When life gets overwhelming and busyness takes precedence, remember Psalm 46:10."

When I think of this Psalm, I see it at three different levels. We have the global level, the pandemic has shown us all that. We have the local level. In our communities and our relationships. And we have us as individuals. This speaks to me at all these levels.

In the first few months of the pandemic, we slowed down and tried to stop the virus from ravaging so many communities. Our industry, our travel, and our businesses slowed down. There were many effects from this – some not so good. But so many marveled at how their lives changed. They had dinner with their families instead of working late or going to softball practice. They found new ways to connect with families far away. Grandparents became masters at

Skyping so they could see their kids and grandkids. We learned to appreciate the people that we were used to seeing almost daily, but now could not. And we had a lot more time to get to know ourselves. But as time as passed, we have become impatient. Sure, slowing down was nice, but now it's time to get our lives back. We have things to do, places to go, and people to see. So much for society slowing down.

Be still and know that I am God. I don't know that this message was a lasting one – at least globally.

Then there is the local level. By this, I mean how we interact with our community. It is true that everything that happens in a community is because we have good people who step up and take action. Our food banks would not exist without people who organize it, get donations, and help distribute food. We have community volunteers to work with the homeless. Those who help fundraise for various causes. Some provide programs for underprivileged children. And the list goes on. Every good community has an army of people volunteering their time to make their world a better place to live for everyone.

Our church would not exist without people to take care of it. We make sure we have staff for the office, have a pastor, and open the doors every Sunday. We could hire to have some or all of it done – which we do, but we still need volunteers to oversee the whole thing.

Because of who we are and how we live out our faith, we consider service to the community to be a part of our church life. We are called to take care of the sick and the poor. That is an expression of our faith and for many, our faith would not be complete without service.

But we must make certain that staying busy with service does not stand in for our relationship with God. Making sandwiches for a food bank, gathering school supplies, and fixing up a house for a homeless person are all good and worthwhile activities. They are great expressions of our faith. But... we must not substitute that for spending time with God. Jesus recognized that being busy can interfere with our relationship with him. While he was visiting Mary and Martha one time, Martha was being a good hostess. She was very busy making sure that there was enough to eat, while Mary just sat there visiting with Jesus. Martha was a bit put out because she was doing all the work, but Jesus did not chide Mary. He told Martha that what Mary had chosen was better. He did not say that Martha was wrong to serve, only that just being with Jesus was important and to not overlook that. In fact, Martha and Mary both serve Jesus and the disciples on other occasions without reproof. My takaway is that both service and relationships are needed.

Its like our family. Every parent wants to make more money to send their kids to a good college, or take the time to lead a scout troop so everyone has a good experience, or even to volunteer in the community. But what our kids often need is just time with us. They want our attention one-on-one. They want us to see them as individuals. Or looking at it from the other end of life. Our seniors may appreciate us planning and making activities for them. But often they want us to come spend time with them. To stop moving and just be there. They too want us to know who they are, not just as an old person. I think God wants the same. He wants to spend time with us. To have our undivided attention. To be still and know that He is God.

And so, on an individual level, I try to bring balance into my spiritual life. Really, there are days that I want to just come to church and just spend time with God. I don't want to write checks, make more reports, adjust the heat, or any of the really necessary tasks. I just want to sit quietly with God. On the other hand, it makes me feel really good and useful. Like I am doing something worthwhile. I feel needed. I need both service and quiet time with God.

So, today I want to remind you that when life is overwhelming in its chaos and busy-ness to step back, stop what you are doing, and acknowledge who God is and what he can do.

Remember to be still and take comfort in knowing that He is God.

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
October 3, 2021 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.  
By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.  
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.  
**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**

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **READINGS AND PSALM**

**Genesis 2:18-24** : *Created for relationship*

**Psalm 8** : You crown us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:5)

**Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12** : *God has spoken by a Son*

**Mark 10:2-16** : *Teaching on marriage*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. *Alleluia.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 796 "How Firm A Foundation"**

### **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**

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens.

Accept the gifts you have first given us.  
Unite them with the offering of our lives  
to nourish the world you love so dearly;  
through 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**

### **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**

Lord of life,  
in the gift of your body and blood  
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.  
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,  
bearing witness to the abundance of your love  
in 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. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians (*specific individuals known to the congregation may be named*), that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us (*especially*) and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You promise eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us. Strengthen our trust we have in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**