

## **From your Council President – October 26, 2021**

Happy Fall, I hope you got your trip to the pumpkin patch over with before the winds and rain washed everything away! We have our pumpkins, but they are uncarved as of this writing. Did you use your time away from service last weekend to check in with a few of your church family? How are they doing?

This week we resume meeting in the Sanctuary for Reformation Sunday. Please join me in welcoming back Pastor Rebecca Swee to Holy Cross this **Sunday, October 31, 2021, at 10:00 AM**, for a full worship service of the Word and Sacrament. Along with Holy Communion we will have our choir to sing the liturgy, accompanied by Sheila Clausen on the piano and special music will be heard. We will sit socially distant and wear masks while inside the Sanctuary. Please come if you are able and remember to wear RED!

Reformation Sunday begins four weeks in a row of visiting Pastors and special services. Don't forget that All Saints Sunday is on November 7<sup>th</sup>, along with the end of Daylight Savings Time for 2021. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep

Speaking of All Saints, we are planning to honor all those that have left us, especially those that have passed in the last year. Please bring a picture or small memento to the church office to be displayed in our Sanctuary and Narthex. Look at the transformation that has taken place inside those spaces. Our great cloud of witnesses is up and shining with glittering light and the fall decorations and pictures of our veterans grace our worship.

By the end of November, we should have our Interim Pastor in place for three Sundays each month. Our plan is to hold meetings with Council, Committees, and the Transition Team after services on Sundays. We are thinking of holding some of the meetings via Zoom, which allows for group discussion and breakout rooms. Please contact me directly if you have an issue with connecting on-line via Zoom. We are trying to solve as many connection issues as possible before we begin the reflection and discernment process that will lead our church to its next called Pastor.

Please continue to pray for your church leadership as they make decisions concerning the short- and long-term future of your church. Throughout this pandemic and transition we have faced many challenges and obstacles. They have been overcome by communication between all of us. We need to know from you what kind of church you want in the future. Your opinions do matter.

Please do not hesitate to reach out via email or phone to your council leadership with your questions or concerns.

Your Servant in Christ, Bryan Struve, Council President

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
October 31, 2021 – Reformation Sunday**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.*

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**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**

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **READINGS AND PSALM**

### **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*I will write my law in their hearts, says the LORD*

### **Psalm 46**

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

### **Romans 3:19-28**

*Justified by God's grace as a gift*

### **John 8:31-36**

*Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for the heavenly kingdom. *Alleluia.* (2 Tim. 4:18)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 503 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

## **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**

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places (*especially*). Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit (*especially*). Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation (*especially*). Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. **Amen.**