

From your Council President – November 2, 2021

Welcome to November. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Halloween this past Sunday. In addition to being Halloween, October 31st is celebrated as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses in Wittenberg to start a discussion of ideas that has continued to the present day.

This past Sunday at Holy Cross saw the return of Reverend Rebecca Swee as she led forty-nine worshipers in a celebration of the 504th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Her sermon brought forth the idea that we continue to be reformed every day, both as a church and individuals. A recording of the service can be viewed on our YouTube channel at; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>

This coming **Sunday, November 7, 2021, at 10:00 AM**, we welcome guest Pastor Joel Schmitz back to Holy Cross for a worship service of the Word and Sacrament to commemorate All Saint's Day. Our choir will be on hand to sing the liturgy and we will read the names and toll a bell for all those that have left us during the past year. The Narthex is filled with pictures of loved ones and our great cloud of witnesses is up and shining with glittering light in the Sanctuary. We continue to sit socially distant and wear masks inside. Please come if you are able.

Do not forget that this Sunday also sees the end of Daylight Savings Time for 2021. Set your clocks back one hour and enjoy the extra sleep!

A big thank you to all who have reached out to others with calls and visits. Our church family continues to connect in a variety of ways, and the personal touch is always the best. If you would like a call or visit or would like to volunteer to do some calling or in person visits, please contact the church office.

Prayers for your church leadership are needed as we make decisions concerning the future of your church. This time of transition allows us to discern where we are now and where we are headed next. All thoughts and ideas are welcome. Please do not hesitate to reach out via email or phone to your council leadership with your concerns, questions, hopes, and dreams. Your input is invaluable as we formulate our Mission Site Profile (MSP), which is a necessary step to calling our next pastor!

Always, your servant in Christ, Bryan Struve, Council President

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church
November 7, 2021 – All Saints 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, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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

Isaiah 25:6-9

The banquet of the LORD

Wisdom 3:1-9 (alternate)

The righteous are with God

Psalms 24

They shall receive blessing from the God of their salvation. (*Ps. 24:5*)

Revelation 21:1-6a

A new heaven and a new earth

John 11:32-44

The raising of Lazarus

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 427 “For All Your Saints, O Lord”

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

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities and wiped tears away (*especially John Christian Frederick Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Ludwig Nommensen whom we commemorate today*).

Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence.

Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us (*those who have died during the past year may be named*). Wipe away our tears and lead us by their example until we feast together on your holy mountain. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.