

From your Council President – January 11, 2022

Another week, another letter. And it seems, yet another bout of increased rates of COVID. Oregon has had more new cases reported since the first of the year than during the entire month of December. Omicron is an especially contagious variant. In some places the case rate has doubled every three days. Do not panic. Continue to take precautions. Limit your exposure possibilities and interactions with others outside your household. Get your booster. Monitor your health and stay home as necessary. We have gotten through the prior waves and will again, so stay the course and stay safe and healthy.

With the above in mind and having received a message from the Bishop's office regarding the strain Omicron is placing on our medical system, we have decided to **cancel in person worship for this coming Sunday, January 16th**. We are called to protect the greater good and the most vulnerable people among us. We will do our part to help ease the pressure on our overwhelmed and fatigued frontline healthcare workers. We will reevaluate later this week and decide if we should cancel church services on the 23rd and 30th.

In the meantime, please reach out to others in your church family to determine how they are doing and if they are in need of something. If you find yourself in need, please contact the church office for assistance.

This past Sunday we had 41 people brave the frost and sunshine to celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord with a service of the Word and Sacrament led by our interim Pastor Curtis Zieske and special music provided by our choir. You may find a video recording of this service, as well as many other prior weeks on our Holy Cross YouTube channel which is located at the following link;
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG!W-jcI8jRhOO>

We continue to look for better ways to deliver the worship experience to you. The sound quality, both in person and on video needs to be improved. We are discussing the merits and need to continue with these weekly mailouts. Please contact me directly with your questions or concerns regarding these or any other issues. Plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on the 30th.

The 2022 Giving Envelopes are here along with the Annual Report booklet. If you would like to receive either and are not able to come into the church, please contact the office and we can make arrangements to get them to you.

In closing, I again ask for continued prayers for your church leadership and the volunteers that keep your church running. It has been a long, exhausting journey during this pandemic, compounded with extra work dealing with the protocols and transition. We have come through so much, by working together towards our common goal. Stick with us a bit more and we can all rejoice in a successful move into our next chapter in ministry here at Holy Cross.

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

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church
January 16, 2022 – Second Sunday of Epiphany**

INVOCATION

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

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; † Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates us,
redeems us,
and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.**

Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.
Live as freed and forgiven children of God.
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 (An expression of God's constant mercy)
Have mercy on us lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
Have mercy on us Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.
Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led
many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and
salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we
may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Isaiah 62:1-5

As bridegroom and bride rejoice, so shall God rejoice over you

Psalms 36:5-10

We feast upon the abundance of your house, O LORD. (Ps. 36:8)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit

John 2:1-11

The wedding at Cana

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” *Alleluia.* (Matt. 3:17)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 488 “Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness”

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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

By your Spirit, activate within your church gifts of faith, healing, and prophecy. Unite those who profess your name across congregations, denominations, and geographic boundaries. Open our hearts to recognize and celebrate surprising miracles. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your creation reflects your generosity. Bless farmers, migrant farmworkers, orchard-keepers, ranchers, and all who tend the abundance of the land. Protect food and water sources from destruction, that all can eat and drink and be satisfied. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

By your Spirit, grant wisdom, knowledge, and discernment to those who hold leadership positions at any level. Direct policymakers toward compassionate decisions that build up safe and just communities. Lead all authorities in seeking and serving the common good. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As Jesus provided generously in a moment of need, provide generous gifts of healing for those in need this day (*especially*). Provide abundantly for all who are hungry or thirsty, all seeking shelter, and all who seek peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You see us for who we are and you delight in us. Embrace those struggling with self-worth, wrestling with self-identity, or facing significant life transition. Remind us that nothing can separate us from your love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You bless us through the spiritual gifts of the saints who have gone before us. We give thanks for the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and all who have modeled the way of courageous faith (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
Sovereign of the universe.
You offer us new beginnings
and guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table,
nourish us with this heavenly food,
and prepare us to carry your love
to a hungry world,
in the name of Christ our light.

Amen.

✠ GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

We give you thanks, gracious God,

for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.

Send us to bring good news

and to proclaim your favor to all,

strengthened with the richness of your grace

in your Son, Jesus Christ. **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

We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
Send us to bring good news
and to proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace
in your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.