

## **From your Council President – January 5, 2022**

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed the Christmas snow. Since I wrote to you last in December, we have held two services at Holy Cross, considered bookends to the twelve days of Christmas and the travel of the wise men bringing their gifts to the Christ child.

The first was on Christmas Eve where we had a lay led service that included readings, a children's message, and beautiful music by our choirs. Then, last Sunday we celebrated Epiphany and the arrival of the Magi at the manger. Video recordings of both services are available on our YouTube channel at; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHbmFBDWLG1W-jcI8jRhOQ>

This coming **Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 10:00 AM**, we will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord with our interim Pastor Curtis Zieske and special music from the choir. Please come if you are able, we continue to sit socially distant and wear masks while inside the building. As always, if you are not feeling well, please stay home and watch the recording when it is posted.

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 have ordered better communion cups that are easier and quieter to open. 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Giving Envelope booklets for 2022 are here. If you would like to receive your booklet and are not able to come into the church, please contact the office and we can make arrangements to get yours to you.

Finally, you may be called in the next few weeks with inquiries on your willingness to serve on Council for this next term or on the Transition Team which will be preparing the Ministry Site Profile document. This will chart our path into the future and towards our next Pastor. It will serve as the primary guide for the Call Committee to use when interviewing candidates and recommending one to be called.

Please prayerfully consider if God is asking you to serve. Your church needs you to be involved. Holy Cross is entering a critical time in its history and the decisions that are made in the coming months will impact where our future is headed. Thanks for being God's hands doing God's work.

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

**Worshipping at Home with Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
January 9, 2022 – Baptism of our Lord**

**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**

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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 43:1-7**

*When you pass through the waters, do not fear, for I am with you*

**Psalm 29**

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

**Acts 8:14-17**

*Prayer and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit*

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*The baptism of Jesus with the descent of the Holy Spirit*

## **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 450 "I Bind Unto Myself Today"**

## **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 the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution.

Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need (*especially*).

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace (*especially*). Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. 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**

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. † Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**