



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday, February 23, 2025**  
**Contemporary Worship**  
**10:30 am Service**  
**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

**GATHERING** The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

**GATHERING MUSIC** *We Bow Down*

<p><b>Verse 1</b> You are Lord of creation And Lord of my life Lord of the land and the sea You were Lord of the heavens Before there was time And Lord of all lords You will be</p> <p><b>Chorus 1</b> We bow down And we worship You Lord We bow down And we worship You Lord We bow down And we worship You Lord Lord of all lords You will be</p>	<p><b>Verse 2</b> You are King of creation And King of my life King of the land and the sea You were King of the heavens Before there was time And King of all kings You will be</p> <p><b>Chorus 2</b> We bow down And we crown You the King We bow down And we crown You the King We bow down And we crown You the King King of all kings You will be</p> <p>CCLI Song # 20003 Twila Paris © 1984 New Spring All rights reserved. <a href="http://www.ccli.com">www.ccli.com</a> CCLI License # 1787498</p>
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**WELCOME** *By Worship Asst*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *by Pastor*

*Please Stand as you are able.*

**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.**

## 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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.** Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

## PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may move around and greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care *especially...*

**Adam Jackson,**

**Leah Leimbach,**

**Alvin Leimbach (out of hospital and now at Quarters Rehabilitation Center),**

**Preben Christensen,**

**Sionie Elavsky,**

**Lois Ristau,**

**Ginger Prellwitz,**

**Cheryl Weiland,**

**Sharon Reiss (lung cancer)**

**Lola Nosker,**

**Clint Kasten (recovering from surgery for aneurysm repair),**

**Robbie Bloemker (dealing with a lung cancer diagnosis, he's a friend of a friend of Penny Rudolph).**

**Pastor Gerhard Kraus (recovering from broken ribs),**

**The family of Sue Templeton (passed away on 2/9, grandmother of Court Templeton).**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities (other ministries may be named). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us (especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna). May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

### **WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song**

**First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' " <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of The Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven. <sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of The Lord. **Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand as you are able.*

## **Gospel: Luke 6:27-38**

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **CHILDREN / YOUTH TIME MESSAGE**

## OFFERING

- Please continue to offer to Holy Cross what you desire to give to God through
- E-giving pledge through Vanco online
- Send your check directly to Holy Cross at 13014 Olive Blvd. in Creve Coeur, MO 63141
- Go to our Website & hit "DONATE NOW"
- <http://www.holycrosselca.com/site/cs/links.asp>

## SONG FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE *Jesus, Friend of Sinners*

### Verse 1

Jesus Friend of sinners  
We have strayed so far away  
We cut down people in Your name  
But the sword was never ours to swing  
Jesus Friend of sinners  
The truth's become so hard to see  
The world is on their way to You  
But they're tripping over me  
Always looking around but never looking up  
I'm so double minded  
A plank-eyed saint with dirty hands  
And a heart divided

### Chorus

(Oh) Jesus Friend of sinners  
Open our eyes to the world  
At the end of our pointing fingers  
Let our hearts be led by mercy  
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors

Oh Jesus Friend of sinners  
Break our hearts for what breaks Yours

### Verse 2

Jesus Friend of sinners  
The One whose writing in the sand  
Made the righteous turn away  
And the stones fall from their hands  
Help us to remember we are all the least of these  
Let the mem'ry of Your mercy  
Bring Your people to their knees  
Nobody knows what we're for  
Only what we're against when we judge the wounded  
What if we put down our signs  
Crossed over the lines  
And loved like You did

### Bridge 1

You love ev'ry lost cause  
You reach for the outcast  
For the leper and the lame  
They're the reason that You came  
Lord I was that lost cause  
And I was the outcast  
But You died for sinners just like me  
A grateful leper at Your feet

### Bridge 2

('Cause) You are good  
You are good  
And Your love endures forever (4X)

### Ending

And I was the lost cause  
And I was the outcast  
Hey  
You died for sinners just like me  
A grateful leper at Your feet

CCLI Song # 6093697

Mark Hall | Matthew West

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## MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

### OFFERING PRAYER *Led by the Worship Assist*

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE *Those of you at home please lift up the Communion elements.*

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 is 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### COMMUNION SONG *Holy and Anointed One*

<b>Verse 1</b> Jesus Jesus Holy and Anointed One Jesus	<b>Ending</b> Jesus Jesus
<b>Verse 2</b> Jesus Jesus Risen and Exalted One Jesus	CCLI Song # 164361 John Barnett © 1988 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing For use solely with the SongSelect® <a href="#">Terms of Use</a> . All rights reserved. <a href="http://www.ccli.com">www.ccli.com</a>
<b>Chorus</b> Your name is like honey on my lips Your Spirit like water to my soul Your Word is a lamp unto my feet Jesus I love You I love You	CCLI License # 1787498

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *Led by the Worship Asst.*

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

**SENDING God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world**

**BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL** *Led by the Worship Asst.*

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

**SENDING SONG** *Graves Into Gardens*

<p><b>Verse 1</b>  I searched the world but it couldn't fill me  Man's empty praise and treasures that fade  Are never enough  Then You came along and put me back  together  And every desire is now satisfied here in Your  love</p> <p><b>Chorus</b>  Oh there's nothing better than You  There's nothing better than You  Lord there's nothing  Nothing is better than You</p> <p><b>Verse 2</b>  I'm not afraid to show You my weakness  My failures and flaws  Lord You've seen them all  And You still call me friend  'Cause the God of the mountain  Is the God of the valley  There's not a place  Your mercy and grace won't find me again</p>	<p><b>Bridge 1</b>  You turn mourning to dancing  You give beauty for ashes  You turn shame into glory  You're the only one who can</p> <p><b>Bridge 2</b>  You turn graves into gardens  You turn bones into armies  You turn seas into highways  You're the only one who can</p> <p>CCLI Song # 7138219  Brandon Lake   Chris Brown   Steven Furtick    Tiffany Hudson  © 2019 Brandon Lake Music; Maverick City  Publishing Worldwide; Music by Elevation  Worship Publishing; Bethel Music Publishing  For use solely with the SongSelect® <a href="#">Terms of Use</a>. All rights reserved. <a href="http://www.ccli.com">www.ccli.com</a>  CCLI License # 1787498</p>
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**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL! SUPPLY PASTOR: Callista Isabelle LAY ASSTS: Dee Morin/Tim Tyahla  
A/V VOLUNTEERS: EARLY SERVICE: Camera – Donovan, Sound - Logan, Slides – Carrie A/V  
VOLUNTEERS: LATE SERVICE: Camera – Court, Sound – Mark, Slides - Dave W  
ORGANIST: Jack Hamill CONTEMPORARY MUSIC WORSHIP DIRECTOR: Dave Reinking  
PRAISE BAND: Brandon Clay, Marty Little, Brendan Falsetto, Matt Davis  
SINGER: Moira McCracken VOLUNTEER DEACONS: Bob Morin/Philip Paul  
ALTAR FLOWERS given to the glory of God. HOLY CROSS COUNCIL MEMBERS: Bob Morin  
(President), Philip Paul (Vice President), Donovan Lucas, Member-at-large), Courtney Andrews,  
Moira McCracken, Kevin Aleshire, Dave Winkler, Mary Bailey (Treasurer), Clarence Jentes  
(Financial Secretary), Penny Rudolph (Secretary)**

### **UPCOMING AT HOLY CROSS**

#### **FEBRUARY:**

Boy Scout Pinewood Derby - 2/22, 10am – 3pm  
Prayer Shawl – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month  
Men’s Bible Study – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month  
Wednesday Bible Study – Every Wednesday

#### **MARCH:**

Greeting Card Ministry - 3/1, 10am – 12pm  
Dessert & Dialogue – 3/6 @12 pm  
Bingo Chili - 3/15 @ 5:30pm  
A Taste of Ireland (Choir & Young Artist Series) – 3/16