

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Sunday, February 23, 2025 Traditional Worship

TIME: 8:30 am Service

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany** 

PRE-SERVICE Softly and Tenderly from A Gift of Gospel, Contemporary Piano Stylings of Favorite American Hymns and Gospel Songs
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GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

**WELCOME** By Worship Asst

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT by Pastor

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS
Bob Morin, President
Philip Paul, Vice President
Donovan Lucas, Member-at-large
Courtney Andrews, new member
Moira McCracken, new member
Kevin Aleshire
Dave Winkler

PRELUDE Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (Hyfrydol) from The King of Heaven, Five Hymns of Praise for Organ arr. by Anna Laura Page © 2016 Birnamwood Publications, a division of Morningstar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. (One License #661129)

Please stand as you are able

**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.** 

## **OPENING HYMN ELW #835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High**

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- 5 And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home. Alleluia.
- O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
   All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One: Alleluia.

**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.** 

**GLORY TO GOD: Communion Setting 3** from Sundays and Seasons.com © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SA5006499



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen. The assembly 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. 5 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. 8 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. 9 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. 10 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.' " 15 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

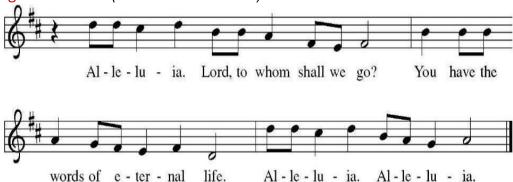
In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

<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 perishable. <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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia from Communion Setting 3 @1978 Augsburg Fortress.

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### **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. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 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. 35 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."

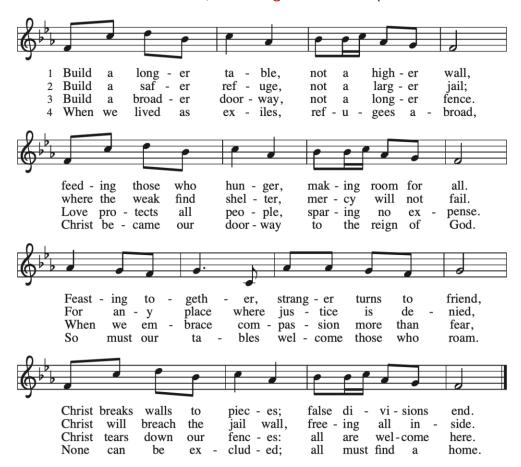
The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

#### CHILDREN / YOUTH TIME MESSAGE

### HYMN OF THE DAY ACS# 1062 Build a Longer Table

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#### APOSTLE'S CREED Led by the Worship Assist.

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.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Led by the Worship Asst

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.** 

**PEACE** We share God's peace with one another.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.** The assembly may be seated.

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

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

### **OFFERTORY** on **Blest Be the Tie That Binds** (Dennis)

from Nine Hymns Preludes for Organ by Gordon Young

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

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.** 

#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY:** Holy Communion Setting 3 Tune © 1978 Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved. (One License #AF2019221)



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

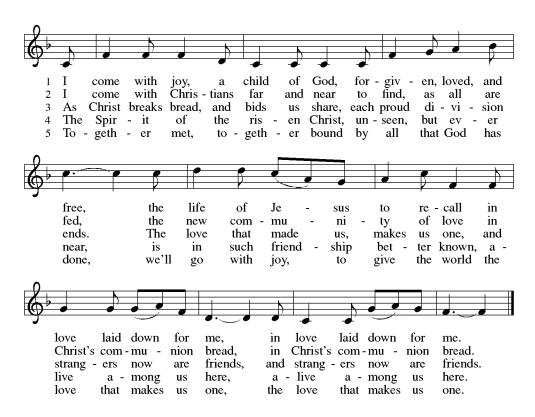
### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness. *The assembly may be seated.* 

#### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

## **COMMUNION HYMN ELW # 482 I Come With Joy**

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Led by the Worship Asst

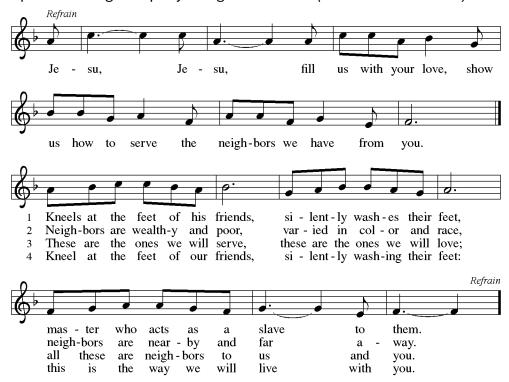
Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.** 

#### 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.** 

**CLOSING HYMN** ELW # 708 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With your Love* Text and Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company All rights reserved. *(One License #00047)* 



#### **DISMISSAL** Led by the Worship Asst

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

**POSTLUDE** All Creatures of Our God and King from Jesus Shall Reign, Organ Music for Pentecost, Ascension and Trinity arr. by Anna Laura Page © 2018 Lorenz Publishing Co. a division of the Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved. (One License # 260428)

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, 8:30am