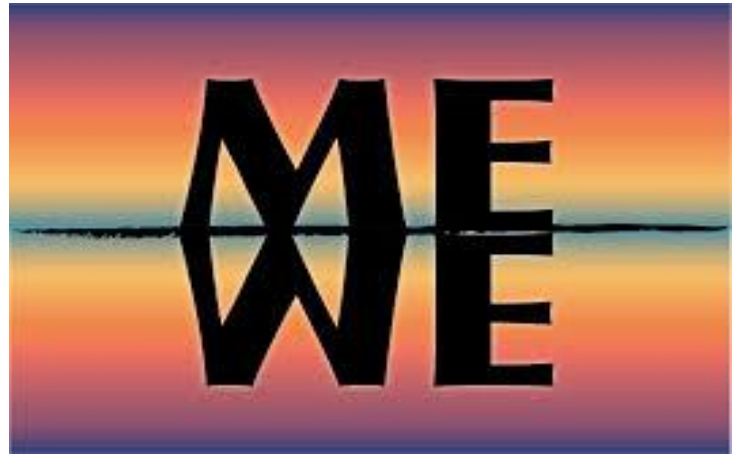


HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
Worship Bulletin Sun, Sept 13, 2020 – 11 AM
15th Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Holy Communion
Prior to Worship, please text Prayers
“Text in Church” # 314.329.0487
& Pastor will lift them
in Prayers of the People today



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

Pastor: He is the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Just as God’s work of creation never ends,
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.
Let us give thanks for the life given in baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: For water to bathe in, water to drink,
For waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,
For water that gives life to our planet.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life!

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: For the water from our tap, for rain and snow,
For the mighty Mississippi, Missouri, and Meramec Rivers,
For Creve Coeur Lake and the ponds and waters that are nearby.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place!

We give you thanks, O God, for Your Salvation through water: For delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, Leading Your people Israel through the sea into freedom,
For preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought,
For guiding Your people across the Jordan into a new land,
For quenching the Samaritan woman’s thirst with living water.

We give you thanks, O God, for Your Salvation through water!

We give you thanks, O God, for the life of all the baptized,
and for all who are gathered together this day:
For Godparents and Baptismal Sponsors, for children and grandchildren,
For our siblings in Christ whom we have not yet met but to whom we are bound.

We give you thanks, O God, for the life of all the baptized!

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit:
For our entry into Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection through these waters,
For our new birth into a life of freedom and service,
For our calling to be Your People sent out for the life of the world.

We give you thanks, blessed and Holy Trinity, now and forever! Amen.

OPENING SONG - *Immortal Invisible*

Chorus

You're the God of forever and ever amen
The Alpha Omega Beginning and End
We sing hallelujah
We worship in awe
Immortal invisible God

Verse 1

Immortal You are not like a man
That You change Your mind
Or change Your plan
Invisible our human eyes can't see
The depths of Your majesty

Verse 2

Immortal You are not bound by death
You're the living God my very breath
Invisible You are not bound by space
But Your glory is filling this place
Yes Your glory is filling this place

Verse 3

Immortal yet You once died for me
To pay my debt to set me free
Invisible You will not always be
'Cause You're coming to reign as our King
And the saints will fall down at Your feet

CCLI Song # 5114962

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Lord God, merciful judge...

...you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

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

FIRST READING - Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM - Psalm 103: 1-13 (Read by Worship Asst. & Pastor)

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING - Romans 14:1-12 (Read by Worship Asst.)

A reading from Romans.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

KIDS' MESSAGE - The Mirror of ME - WE

GOSPEL - Matthew 22: 15-22 (Read by Pastor)

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON - Enemy of Gratitude: GREED!

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

CREED *The Apostles' Creed* – Led by Worship Asst.

**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 THE PEOPLE - Led by Worship Asst.

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth (especially DIALOGUE GROUPS). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness and greed has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm and oppression is dealt. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. For those we hold in prayer for mind, body and spirit, especially **Marilyn, Vera, Keith, Luanne, Jean, Merry, Adam, Kelly, Betty, Alvin, Leah, Wayne, Brenda, Cynthia, Diana, Flora, Fred, Jack, Jason, Dennis, Mark, David, Sarah, Sandy, Bob, Tanya, and William.** Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered from Texts sent to Pastor.

Pastor: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

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*

1) Your established e-giving pledge through Vanco OR

2) through a new mobile App called GIVEPLUS+ is available from your mobile store online

3) send your check directly to Holy Cross at 13014 Olive Blvd. in Creve Coeur, MO 63141

4) Go to our Website and hit "DONATE NOW" <http://www.holycrosselca.com/site/cs/links.asp>

The presiding minister instructs those communing at home to gather their bread / cracker / wine/ grape juice elements to hold up during the Words of Institution.

OFFERTORY - Open the Eyes of My Heart

Chorus

Open the eyes of my heart Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

Verse

To see You high and lifted up

Shining in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy holy holy

Bridge

Holy holy holy

Holy holy holy

Holy holy holy

I want to see You

CCLI Song # 2298355

OFFERING PRAYER *After the table is set, the assisting minister leads.*

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Pastor free floats prayer above the congregation.*

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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.

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 presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Taste and see that the Lord is good. *The bread may be broken for Home Communion.*

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen. The ministers commune after others commune.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION - *The River*

Verse 1

To the river I am going
Bringing sins I cannot bear
Come and cleanse me come forgive me
Lord I need to meet You there

Verse 2

In these waters healing mercy
Flows with freedom from despair
I am going to that river
Lord I need to meet You there

Chorus

Precious Jesus I am ready
To surrender ev'ry care
Take my hand now lead me closer
Lord I need to meet You there

Verse 3

Come and join us in the river
Come find life beyond compare
He is calling He is waiting
Jesus longs to meet you there
He is calling He is waiting
Jesus longs to meet you there

Ending

Take my hand now lead me closer
Lord I need to meet You there

CCLI Song # 4316864

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *The assisting minister leads...*

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – 1 PM CST TODAY - ZOOM CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR HENRY ELAVSKY

FOLLOWING IS AN IN-PERSON RECEPTION TO GREET SIONIE & FAMILY IN NARTHEX
(MASKED, SOCIAL-DISTANCED)

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING SONG - *Every Move I Make*

Verse

Every move I make I make in You
You make me move Jesus
Every breath I take I breathe in You
Every step I take I take in You
You are my way Jesus
Every breath I take I breathe in You

Bridge

La la la la la la
La la la la la la la la

Chorus

Waves of mercy waves of grace
Everywhere I look I see Your face
Your love has captured me
Oh my God this love how can it be

Ending

Jesus

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Worship Assistant	Tim Tyahla
Singers	Moira McCracken, Linda Tyahla
Praise Band	Brandon Clay, Jason Cooper, Marty Little, Paul Niehaus
AV/Camera Volunteers	Marcus Benson, Patrick Goertzen, Kylie Jost, Donovan Lucas, Philip Paul, David Ristau



*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for the life of Henry Elavsky
by Pastor Janice and Dennis Hawley.*