



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Spirit-Led, Community-Driven

4th Sunday in LENT

8:30 AM CST Traditional Worship

Sunday, March 19, 2023

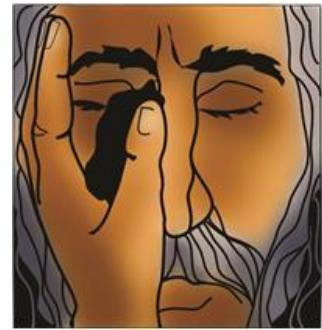
Holy Communion Setting #10

Prayers Requests

Please Text-in-Church 314.329.0487

or Email Carrie at Office@holycrosselca.com

Lifted during Prayer Time



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

Meditation Music *God Whose Almighty Word* (Italian Hymn) from Jesus Shall Reign,
Organ Music for Pentecost, Ascension and Trinity arr. by Anna Laura Page
(One License # 150254)

WELCOME *by Worship Asst.*

ANNOUNCEMENT

AND TODAY's THEME *by Pastor*

The Paradox we will consider is one fundamental to our being! Denial / Affirmation! And the difference may be hanging in the balance of our Spiritual seeing! How can we know God MORE with our spiritual eyes?

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* from *Be Thou My Vision, Five Hymn Arrangements for Organ*
by Mark Thewes (One License # 10773.1)

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, $\text{\textt{T}}$ one God, who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life. This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy, $\text{\textt{T}}$ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

God, Whose Almighty Word

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the corners of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The assembly is seated.

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

READING EPHESIANS 5: 8 – 14 *Read by Worship Asst.*

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205) *The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL JOHN 9:1-41 *Read by Pastor*

The holy gospel according to The Gospel of Matthew... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided.

¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the Synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE - Human Experience & God Experience: *Denial and Affirmation*
Beginning with Kids' Message *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

CREED The Apostles' Creed - *Led by the 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 the Worship Asst.*

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials by encouraging them to lead with justice. Hasten them to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve. Today we especially pray for...

Keith DeCamp,

Adam Jackson,

Leah Leimbach,

Preben Christensen,

Sionie Elavsky,

Lois Ristau,

Ginger Prellwitz,

Frank Barnhart,

Marion Sims (Justin Sims father and the father in-law of Melissa Sims),

Renate Hawn (pain management for arthritis),

Eric Krause (speedy recovery after second hip replacement surgery on 2/28/23, Heidi Rechek's father),

Janet Marshall (upcoming surgery),

Diana (kidney dialysis),

The people of Ukraine & Russia and all those affected by war,

REMEMBERING THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO LOST LOVED ONES...

The family of Scotty Larsen (passed away, Monday, March 6th)

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries in the larger community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered by Pastor

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us.

And so we lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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, and say, "Peace be with you".

The assembly is seated.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING *Please offer to Holy Cross what you desire to give to God for ministries of Holy Cross!*

(JUST DROP IN THE BASKET / PLATE AS IT IS PASSED.)

- *E-giving 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>*

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

OFFERING PRAYER *Led by Worship Asst.*

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

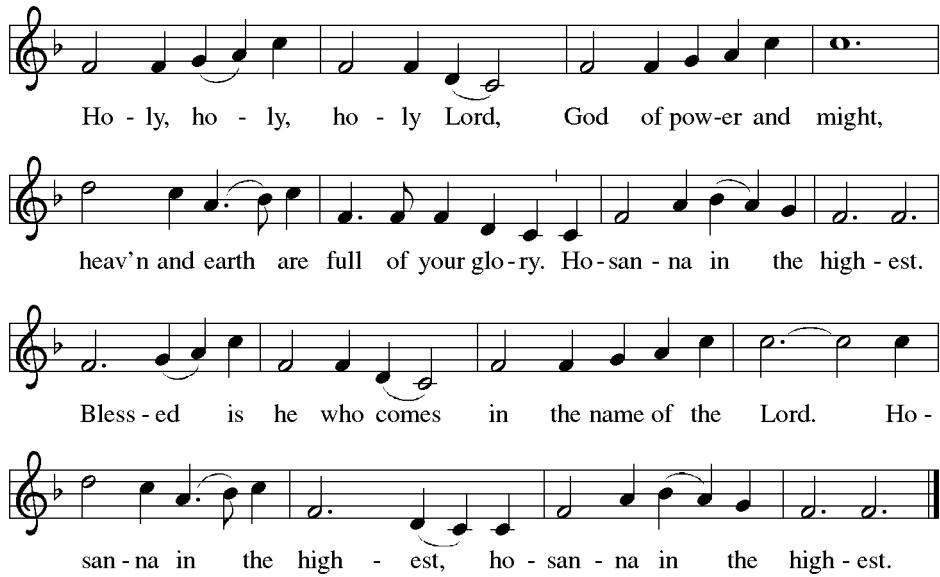
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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 (ELW p. 207)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

[Please lift up your Elements when Communing at Home or with Fellowship Cups]

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.
With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon
and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

The assembly may be seated. 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.*

COMMUNION HYMN ELW # 779 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (Public Domain) See page 8.

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

Embody God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

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

BLESSING *Pastor offers:*

God, the giver of love, [☩] Christ, the resurrection, and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #611 *I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say* (One License #810006) See page 9.

DISMISSAL *Worship Asst. offers:* Go in peace. Serve in Love. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* from *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing, 12 Preludes and Postludes for the Church Year* arr. by Robert J. Powell (One License # 10-696.02)

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WE ARE GRATEFUL!

Worship Assistants: Mike Prange / Bud Niebling

Singer: Megan Tyahla

Organist & Choir Director: Jack Hamill

Praise Band: Praise Band: Dave Reinking, Brandon Clay, Marty Little, Jason Cooper, and Matt Davis

A/V Team: Philip Paul & Dave Ristau, Donovan Lucas & Marcus Benson, Teagan McCracken

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune