

Holy Cross Lutheran
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2020 – 9 AM

AS WE GATHER We continue our sermon series on the beautiful letter from the Apostle Paul to the Romans. Today, the Apostle boldly shares at the end of chapter 8, “Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ, Jesus.” Love is a many-splendored thing, says an old song. Oh, how we love the love stories! Nothing can compare with the true story of God’s love. His is the greatest love story of all. It began with a promise to Adam and Eve still smarting over their guilt and suffering the shame of their betrayal. It was lived out among a people marked with the promise that a Savior would rise-up from them. It was kept alive by the prophet’s voice. It was made flesh and blood in Christ. Though our love stories have many difficulties because of our sin that so many times shows us how we are unfaithful to God, let alone selfish – not loving our family, friends and neighbor well; God is always faithful in His unconditional love for us. His love always triumphs and brings hope to our love for others. God bless your worship as we rejoice in the Lord and His love always for all people, even us!

† IN DOMINE JESU †

(In the Name of Jesus)

PRELUDE

WELCOME “This is the Day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it.” *Ps. 118:24*

GATHERING HYMN “God Loves Me Dearly” *LSB 392*



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



Refrain
There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

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INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Do good, O Lord, to those who hold fast to Your name

C: and to those upright in heart.

P: But those who turn aside to their crooked ways,

C: the Lord will lead away with evildoers.

P: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us poor, miserable sinners. We have offended You in thought, word, and deed. We have sinned against our neighbor. Spare us, O God, who confess our sins to You and who hide not our faults from Your eyes. Restore the penitent and forgive us all our sins according to the promise of Your mercy revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. As He suffered and died to cover our sins, cover us with His righteousness, and grant us grace that today and every day we live upright, sober, and godly lives to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Through the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, our Savior, you have been made children of God in Baptism and live because of His mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together. **Mighty God, Your love once called a people and made them Your chosen instrument from which You would bring forth Your Son. Grant to us the same love and grace that we might be Your own and live under You in Your kingdom forevermore; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

† THE LIVING WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

(Because the Lord loves you, He has chosen you to be His treasured possession.)

⁶“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

(Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ our Savior.)

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Matthew 13:35b

All: Alleluia. I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44–52

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The kingdom of God is like a hidden treasure.)

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
 2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have

sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
 brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and

sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain
 O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!

O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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SERMON

“Nothing can Separate Us from God’s Love!”

Romans 8:38-39

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (after the petitions, the Pastor prays “Lord in your mercy” please pray, “Hear our prayer”)

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

† CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER †

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: In preparation for the Lord's supper we pray the prayer 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.**

WORD'S OF INSTITUTION & RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST

THE PREPARATION *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord's Words of Institution)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

ONE BODY IN CHRIST *(We take Communion together with the invitation of the following words)*

P: Take and eat this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given into death for all your sin.

P: Take and drink this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast, in the one true faith, to life everlasting. Go in peace, joy, love and forgiveness. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray together. **O Lord, You have richly fed us the holy gifts of Christ's body and blood in this bread and wine. Keep us by Your Spirit's power that we not depart from Christ but be brought into the eternal joy of Your kingdom and into the blest reunion of the saints before Your glorious presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you His with favor and † give you peace.

SENDING HYMN

"You Will Never Run"

By: Rend Collective

THE SENDING

P: Go in peace and join Jesus on His mission! **C: Amen! We will! Amen!**

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †

(To God be the Glory)

SERVING TODAY THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE 9:00 am

Communion Support:	Jon Dobberstein
Lector:	Janean Johnston
Ushers:	Paige Westrum
Acolyte:	Blake Dobberstein
AV:	Dinah Gilberts
Offering Counters:	Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein

Holy Cross Happenings

July 26 – August 2, 2020

14085 Pike Lake Trail NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Phone: (952) 445-1779

Music & Choir Director: Mui Cheng Praise Music Director: Becca Tutewohl

Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak

Pastor Jim Jobst: (612) 615-2939

WELCOME GUESTS AND MEMBERS!

Welcome to the Lord's House. God bless you as hear the Good News today of His unconditional love! Jesus promised wherever two or three are gathered in His name, His presence is there. Jesus is here! We pray and know He will bless you with faith, hope, and love for your daily life through His Word and Spirit! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of our ushers or greeters.

QUOTE: July 26 "Our lives may be full of stress, but Jesus is with us as He has always been—walking with us, holding us in His hands, keeping us in His care. Nothing can take God's love away from us. Nothing, not even death—not even death on a cross!—can keep Jesus from the people He came to save." *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

Thank you – Thank you for all the cards, prayers and calls to us on the passing of my brother Terry. We appreciate all of our church family's love and support. Thank you Pastor Jim and Vivian.

Summer Women's Bible Study - Join us for our last Summer Women's Bible Study on the Book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah is a wonderful example for us in today's world. Nehemiah prayed constantly and relied on scripture. Read over this great book in preparation of our study. Great background reading is the book of Ezra, which is right before Nehemiah. We will be meeting in the Preschool Room July 29 at 7 to 8:30 pm. This week we will be discussing Nehemiah Chapters 10-11. Questions - contact Michele Lein. Join us and be changed by Scripture, the power of the Holy Spirit and the book of Nehemiah.

Informal time of prayer - We will be having an informal time of prayer at Holy Cross on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm. All are welcome. We will be meeting in the sanctuary starting August 5th. We will be praying for Holy Cross, our nation, Covid concerns and any other prayer requests. We will provide a list of what to pray for and bring along your personal prayers also. Please pray about joining us for all or some of these Wednesday nights.

Holy Communion is celebrated today. Our belief and practice is Confessional. Jesus clearly teaches He is truly present in His supper in the bread and wine. We receive miraculously, in the gift of faith He has given us His true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you have been baptized and confirmed in our church body, please commune with us. If you have questions about communing, please wait to commune until receiving instruction in one of our communion classes. Thank you.

CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS

Responding to God's Grace

Contributions needed each month (General Fund): \$21,982.50

Contributions received in June 2020 - \$21,627.27

Attendance – 07-19-2020

Worship: 35 at Holy Cross + online streaming

Communion: 32+ Drive-up Communion

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Sunday, July 26 8th Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Also via Zoom
10:15 am Drive-up Communion
11:00 am Bible Study via Zoom

Monday, July 27

Tuesday, July 28
8:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Holy Cross

Wednesday, July 29
12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study Nehemiah – Pre-school room

Thursday, July 30

Friday, July 31

Saturday, August 1

Sunday, August 2 9th Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Also via Zoom
10:15 am Drive-up Communion
11:00 am Bible Study via Zoom

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 2, 2020

9:00 am	Elder/Communion Helper:	Brit Weimer
	Lector:	Carol Albrecht
	Ushers:	Evelyn & Norma Jabs
	Acolyte:	Allie Wagner
	AV:	Dinah Gilbert
	Offering Counter:	Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein