

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2020 – 9 AM



AS WE GATHER In the quiet refuge of this sanctuary, it may be easy to forget that we live in a world that has been marred by sin, cursed by death, and filled with wickedness. Although we confront it every day, this very present evil will not overcome us. God's desire is for us to be saved and delivered by His Son, Jesus, so that we are enabled to love, to live, and to overcome evil with good. We continue our sermon series today from Romans 12:9-21 rejoicing as we receive the same Jesus who once overcame evil by carrying His cross to suffer for our salvation. Trouncing over all the evil we will ever face, our risen Savior lives to love, to bless, and to deliver us as His people.

† 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 "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" *LSB 697*

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, And
2 To us on earth He came to bring From
3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, Who
4 For us Christ lived, for us He died, And

Christ shall give you light; So learn His love, its
sin and fear re - lease, To give the Spir - it's
died that He might save; With kind and gen - tle
con - quered in the strife; A - wake, a - rise, go

length and breadth, Its full - ness, depth, and height.
u - ni - ty, The ver - y bond of peace.
hearts for - give As God in Christ for - gave.
forth in faith, And Christ shall give you life.

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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

1 John 1:8–9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us therefore come before His throne of grace with humble and sincere hearts to lay our burdens down.

C: Gracious Lord, we come before You, laying the burden of our sin at the foot of Your cross. We openly acknowledge our failure to follow Your plans for our lives. We have stumbled and fallen in our service to You. We have placed our agenda ahead of Yours. We have been shallow in our love toward You and toward those You have placed in our path. We cry out for mercy, trusting in Your promise to forgive us through the love of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: God has heard your cry for mercy and fulfills His promise to save and deliver you! Lavishing His grace upon you in Jesus, He enables you to love and forgive as He has first loved and forgiven you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together. **Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the evil of sin and death at the cross for our redemption. Grant to us the goodness of our Savior so that we are not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good; through the same 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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

(The Lord gives His precious, saving words.)

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

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

EPISTLE

Romans 12:9-21

(The Apostle Paul says, with genuine love, overcome evil with good.)

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

VERSE

Matthew 16:25

Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21–28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(Jesus calls His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him.)

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

LSB 702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

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SERMON

"Game On!"

Romans 12:9-16

9Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. 14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited.

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 petitions, Pastor prays "Lord in your mercy" please pray, "Hear our prayer")*

(after all the petitions have been prayed, we commend all the prayers with these words)

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.**

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 as one body together as brothers and sisters in Christ with our 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 THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together; **We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the gracious gift of Your Son's body and blood. Now that we have received our Savior's goodness, help us to face the evil of our world in the strength and blessing of Him who died for us all; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Romans 12:21

P: Do not be overcome by evil,

C: but overcome evil with good.

P: The grace of the Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

SENDING HYMN

"God's Not Dead"

By: Daniel Bashta

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)

THE POSTLUDE

Holy Cross Happenings

August 30 – September 6, 2020

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: August 30 "The One who created the heavens and the earth, the Author of the sun and the stars in the sky, is also the One who came Himself as the promise of light. Into the darkness of this world, the Word at the very beginning became flesh to dwell among us. Of this remarkably authored story, one witness writes: In Him was life and that life was the light of all people. The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)" *Tejedor Tiewsoh, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, Shillong, India – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

Informal prayer time - 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 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.

SS Rally Day – Parking Lot Picnic and Ice Cream Social! Sunday, September 20 Bring your picnic basket, favorite picnic foods and beverages for your own family, lawn chairs and/or a table or your tailgate for a picnic in the parking lot to kick off the SS year here at Holy Cross. Church will provide the ice cream and you are welcome to eat it plain or bring your favorite toppings or treats to enjoy with it. Watch for more SS details in the coming weeks in the Happenings and September Holy Crossings. We look forward to gathering to rally for another year of growing spiritually in our faith in Christ, the Word made flesh!

Haiti Help - Any support you are able to give, pray and possibly give a financial contribution, it would help Haiti greatly and very much appreciated. If you wish to donate towards food you should make that notation in the memo line. If you wish the address to mail in a contribution is as follows: HLMS, PO Box 22544, Lincoln NE 68542-2544.

McKenna visiting – If anyone is interested in visiting Lohart on Wednesday at 10 am outdoors where they set up a special outdoor distancing, people can meet Pastor, Janean or Nancy and attend with them when they visit. If rain and lightning the visit cannot be done. Please contact the church office if interested.

Parking Lot Fellowship - Make plans now to start your Saturday, September 12, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., with a stop at Holy Cross parking lot. Bring your own beverage and pick up a treat from Edelweiss Bakery—cream cheese, raspberry lemon, apple, Nutella are a few of the choices. There will also be donuts. There is no charge for this event. Social distancing will be practiced. This event is sponsored by Thrivent Financial and organized by Robert and Bonnie Nowak. We hope to see you there!

Mums for Haiti - Fifteen mums were sold on the first day of our fundraiser, Mums for Haiti. We have 35 more to sell. This fundraiser will raise \$500 for our brothers and sisters in Haiti who are starving. Pastor Thomas Bernard, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Port-au-Prince, said more people are dying from starvation than Covid 19. Mums are from Sailer's Greenhouse and are \$16 each. They will be available at the church parking lot Saturday, September 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in purchasing a mum, contact Bonnie Nowak in person at church or e-mail her at bonnienowak007@gmail.com. Make checks payable to Holy Cross Lutheran and designate flower sale on the memo line. Flower colors available will be red, yellow or orange. Come early to get the color you want. Thrivent Financial is helping to sponsor this event.

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, 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

Attendance – 08-23-2020

Worship: 31+ 14 streamers
Communion: 29 + 7 Drive-up Communion

Responding to God's Grace

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$21,982.50
Contributions received in August \$

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Sunday, August 30 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom
10:15-10:45 am Drive-up Communion
11:00 am Romans' Bible Study via Zoom

Monday, August 31

Tuesday, September 1

8:00 am Men's Bible Study (preschool room)

Wednesday, September 2

12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due
7:00 pm Informal Prayer (*sanctuary*)

Thursday, September 3

Friday, September 4

Saturday, September 5

9:00 am Church Cleaning

Sunday, September 6 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom
10:15 am Drive-Up Communion
11:00 am Romans' Bible Study via Zoom

SERVING TODAY THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE 9:00 am

Communion Support: Brit Weimer
Lector: Pam Hunter
Ushers: Lance Lerum
Acolyte: Morgan Schulze
AV: Judy Weimer
Offering Counters: Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2020 9:00 am

Elder/Communion Helper: Dave Albrecht
Lector: Diane Mullenbach
Ushers: Steve Oak
Acolyte: Blake Dobberstein
AV: Jason Eickhoff
Offering counters: Wendy Fitzwater & Doug Schulze



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