

Holy Cross Lutheran
YOUTH SUNDAY - FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 31, 2021 – 9 AM

AS WE GATHER - Welcome to Youth Sunday. We give thanks to the Lord for our young people as they share a Christian Drama to remind us to celebrate Christ's love by helping others, through kindness, when times are not so good. The Lord bless our youth today as they share and testify to God's love.

† 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

"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

LSB 904 vs. 1-2

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.

Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalms 32:1-2, 5-7, 10

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered.

C: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit.

P: We confess at times we do not listen to Your words and close our hearts to You.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: We confess at times that our freedom in Christ has caused one who is weak in faith, to stumble.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: We confess at times we allow the forces of evil to make us forget the deliverance and love of God in Christ.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: The Psalmist proclaims; "I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

C: I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin."

P: "Therefore, let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, the flood will not reach him.

C: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a 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. To those who believe in His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones;

C: and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

PRAISE HYMN

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

LSB 904 vs. 3-4

3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together. **Lord of heaven and earth, by Your hands all things were made. In Your Word is power over order and chaos, light and darkness, life and death. Grant Your Spirit that we become instruments of your peace humbly serving all in kindness; 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

Jeremiah 31:1-13, 23-25, 31-33 (NIV)

(The Lord brings back His people from Captivity that they might rejoice again in His love)

L: ¹“At that time,” declares the LORD, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.”
²This is what the LORD says: “The people who survive the sword will find favor in the wilderness; I will come to give rest to Israel.”
³The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”
⁴I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again, you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful.
⁵Again, you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit.
⁶There will be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim, ‘Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.’”
⁷This is what the LORD says: “Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, ‘LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’”
⁸See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return.
⁹They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a

level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. ¹⁰ "Hear the word of the LORD, you nations, proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' ¹¹ For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. ¹² They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. ¹³ Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. ²³ This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: 'The LORD bless you, you prosperous city, you sacred mountain.' ²⁴ People will live together in Judah and all its towns—farmers and those who move about with their flocks. ²⁵ I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." ³¹ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

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

EPISTLE

Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV)

(Paul encourages the Galatians to keep doing good to everyone, that in time, they will receive a harvest.)

L: ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

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

VERSE

John 3:17

Alleluia. For God did not His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save it. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

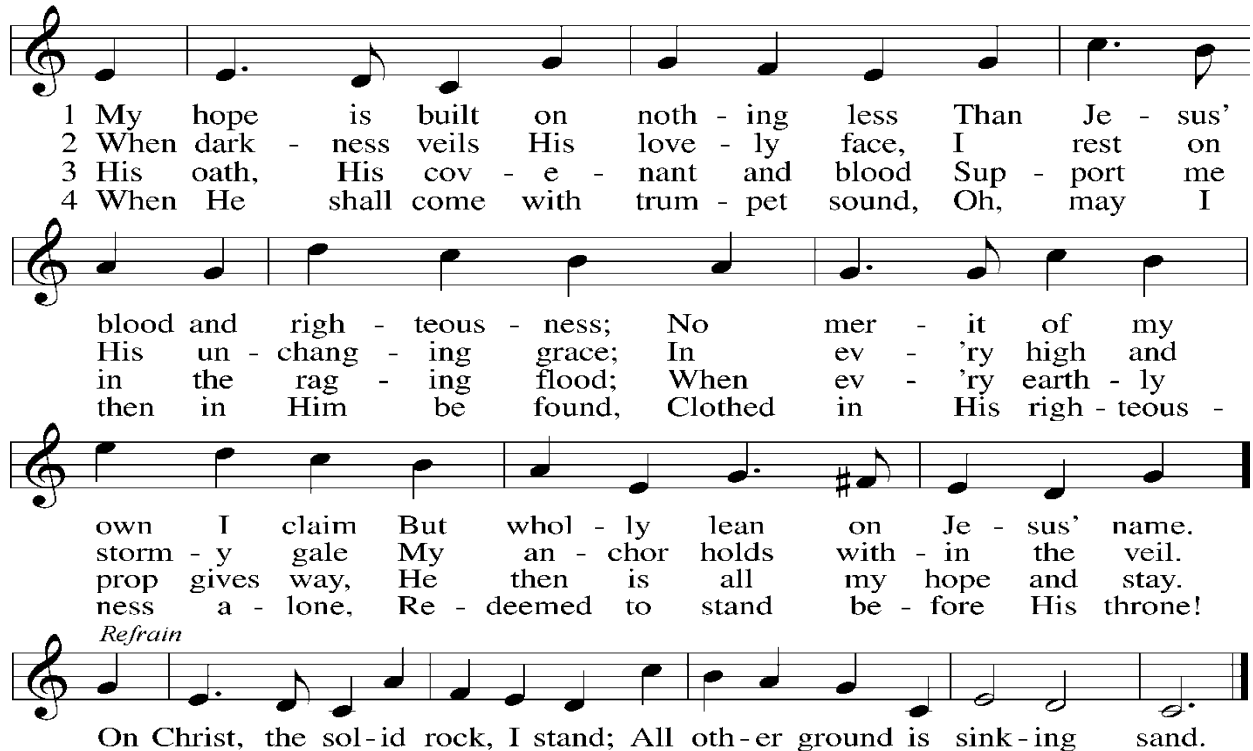
John 3:1-17 (ESV)

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

(Nicodemus learns about God's grace in Christ)

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ [Jesus said:] "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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



1 My hope is built on nothing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I

blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -

own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain
 On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Public domain

MESSAGE - YOUTH DRAMA "I Have Loved You with an Everlasting Love" *Written by: Bonnie Nowak***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.

PRAYER 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** *(In preparation for the Lord's supper, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us)*

C: 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."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

ONE BODY IN CHRIST *(As brothers and sisters in Christ, as one body we communion 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. Know that His peace, joy, love and forgiveness is yours now and forever. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together. **We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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

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 with His favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

SONG OF SENDING

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

By: Stuart Townend

DISMISSAL

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

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †

(To God be the Glory)

POSTLUDE

HOLY CROSS HAPPENINGS

January 31 – February 7, 2021

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.

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS – The OT book of Nahum led by Rev. Robert Nowak will resume next week due to the Voter's Meeting.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION REPORTS – The financial contribution reports are ready for everyone to pick up. They are in a clear container on the Office Ministry Assistant's counter. Please pick them up to save on postage. Thank you for your help.

BASIC YOUTH GROUP – In conjunction with Youth Sunday January 31st, the BASIC Youth Group is kicking off a food shelf drive to benefit the CAP Agency. Please place your non-perishable food items in or near the designated boxes in the narthex by Sunday, February 7th. If you're not attending church but would like to donate, please email Kelly Kruse at kpjkruse@att.net to coordinate a contactless pick-up.

NIGHT TO SHINE – We have heard from the Tim Tebow Foundation that the Night to Shine will be held VIRTUALLY this year on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021. While this will be different for all of us, I STILL NEED YOU. We are required to provide SWAG BAGS for each of the honored guests. I am hoping for around 160 registered guests this year and that means we will need 160 swag bags. We are required to deliver or mail the bags to our guests by the Wednesday before the event. Here is what I need: **DONATIONS** - I am trying to purchase all items strictly out of monies donated this year. I want to save what money we have for our next in person event. Money donations, Gift Card donations, Connections to restaurants or businesses willing to provide a meal or coupon for our guests, donations for crowns and tiaras (required), donations for extra gifts in the bags, donations for corsages or boutonnieres (required). **PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE MONEY OR A SPECIFIC ITEM. ANYTHING WILL HELP! Please mail donations to:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 14085 Pike Lake Trail NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372, memo: Night to Shine Attn: Shari Schulze

INFORMAL PRAYER TIME – We will continue the informal time of prayer at Holy Cross on Wednesday evenings starting @ 7:00 pm.

VOTER'S MEETING – Will be held today starting at 10:00 am after the 9:00 service. Please plan on attending.

PRAY AND PLAY EVENT – WINTER FUN! SUNDAY, February 21

Sledding/Snowman Building/Snowball Battle/Snow Shoeing! First,...PREPARE! Are you prepared for winter fun in the outdoors? How do you prepare? What items do you need for safety and being smart outside in the cold temperatures? How did you gain this knowledge? Think about it and bring your list of being prepared to share and discuss and everything you need to have fun and be ready for this special Sunday Pray & Play event. * I challenge you to invite, and then bring, a friend along for winter fun at church during the SS time. (Big "kids at heart" are encouraged to participate as well!)

MCKENNA VISITING UPDATE - If interested in visiting Lohart, please call McKenna Crossing's office. Currently they have visiting on Thursday by appointment, two persons per week. Pastor and Janean visit on Wednesday however, currently because of Covid restrictions they are the only ones to visit on Wednesdays.

JANUARY 31, VOTERS' MEETING: Next week the Holy Cross Voter's meeting will include a special vote, at the request of the President of the LCMS, Rev. Matthew Harrison, to suspend the National LCMS Convention one year, moving it from the summer of 2022 to the summer of 2023 due to Covid-19 complications and state restrictions that are causing District conventions to be delayed this 2021 year. The Synod by-laws specify that for Congregations to vote at the Synod's Convention, District Conventions need to be held the previous year of the National Convention to meet the voting by-law requirement. Thus, the delay for the National Convention is to help all Congregations/Districts be equally represented at the National Convention. **Note:** President Harrison also wanted to share that there will be some costs to reschedule Synod's Convention, but Synod will do their best to be good stewards of the church's finances. President Harrison has stated this is an unprecedented time with the pandemic and assures the Synod that there is not any particular theological position that would question this request. Last but not least, in order that the voting goes smooth and only need to happen once, another by-law must be met. A minimum of 25% of Synod's congregations must vote and submit the vote before Feb 15, 2021. Approximately, 1,550 congregations need to vote in the next 2-3 weeks out of about 6,200 congregations. Thank you for your willingness as a congregation to walk together as brothers and sisters in Christ with Synod's request and with our sister congregations across the country.

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.

SERVING TODAY - SUNDAY JANUARY 31, 2021 9:00 am

Elder/Communion Brit Weimer
Lector: Allie Wagner
Ushers: YOUTH GROUP
Acolyte: Daniel Vannett
AV: Dinah Gilberts
Offering Counters: Dave Albrecht & Doug Schulze

SERVING NEXT WEEK – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2021 9:00 am

Elder/Communion Dave Albrecht
Lector: Jonas Petrie
Ushers: Dinah Gilberts
Acolyte: Morgan Schulze
AV: Vivian Jobst
Offering Counters: Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein

CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$21,982.50
 Contributions received in December \$26,108.57

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 ATTENDANCE

Worship:	37	Drive-up Communion:	4
Communion:	35	Sanctuary Class:	5
Zoom:	14	Bible Class:	11

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Sun.	January 31	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Youth Sunday
	9:00 am	Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom
	10:00 am	Voter's Meeting
	10:45-11:15 am	Drive-Up Communion
Mon.	February 1	
	5:30 pm	Elder/Leader Meeting zoom
Tue.	February 2	
	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Wed.	February 3	
	12:00 pm	Happenings Articles Due
	7:00 pm	Informal Time of Prayer
Thu.	February 4	
Fri.	February 5	
	9:30 am	Cleaning Crew
Sat.	February 6	
Sun.	February 7	Fifth Sunday of Epiphany
	9:00 am	Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom
	10:00 am-11am	"Nahum" Bible Study in back of the Sanctuary
	10:15 am-10:45	Drive-Up Communion



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 James Jobst: (612) 615-2939