

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



EVERYTHING [IN] BETWEEN  
MARCH 19, 2025

*Faith and Works*

## **Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.



We welcome you, and you are safe with us...  
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;  
 Whatever your relationship status;  
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;  
 Whatever your socio-economic status;  
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;  
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.  
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

### **What to Expect in Worship**

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Pastor will give instructions on how we celebrate communion at that part of the service. Written instructions are also included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

*There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.*

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

*Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.*

**Everything [in] between**  
**Faith and Works**  
 March 19, 2025 ~ 7:00 PM



**WE GATHER**



## **PRELUDE**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Pastor:** Come as you are. If you have deep faith or your faith has run dry, if you know every scripture or none at all, if you have calloused hands and live your faith through good works, or if you kneel at God's feet with a million hungry questions, come as your are. This is God's house. None are turned away.

**Assembly:** **All are welcome here.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**Pastor:** The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story where one does right and one does wrong. We know that life is often more complicated than that. We know that faith is embodied through being present *and* taking action—and everything in between.

Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God. Let us be honest about our lives, our hopes, and our mistakes. For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace. Let us pray:

Pastor:

God of Grace,

Assembly:

**We long to do the “right” thing. We long to make the “right” choice. We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.**

**In our earnestness, we miss the sacred right in front of us. In our earnestness, we miss opportunities to show love.**

**Show us how to hold our heart’s desire for perfection loosely. Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else. For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you. Show us the way. Amen.**

Pastor:

Faithful friends, God knows your heart.

When you mean well and lose your way, God knows. When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows. When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows. You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven. You have been sent to serve. This is the good news of the gospel! Nothing can separate you from God’s love.

Assembly:

**Amen.**



## GATHERING HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #759)

## My Faith Looks Up to Thee



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, oh, 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; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887  
 Music: ÓLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## GREETING

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Assembly:** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Loving God, when our anxiety hovers close, when fear clings to our bones, when our stress rises like the tide, see us. Speak to us. Call us by name. See us in the kitchen, in the classroom, in

the hospital waiting room. Speak to us in the quiet, in the crowd, in the inky black of night. Call us beloved. Call us by name. Call us your child. Whatever you do, speak to us, for we cannot live on bread alone.

**Assembly:**                      **Amen.**

*Please sit.*



## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD



### **READING**

Luke 10:38-42

**Reader:**                      A reading from the gospel of Luke

<sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

**Reader:**                      Word of God. Word of Life.

**Assembly:**                      **Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

(Stanzas 1, 2, 5 & 6)  
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #685)

## Take My Life, That I May Be

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself, and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.  
 Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Assisting Minister: With the whole church let us profess our faith,  
 Assembly: **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.**

Scan the QR code below  
if you would like to give  
your offering  
electronically.



**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 INTERCESSION**

*Please sit.*

## **OFFERING**

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. Deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray with confidence the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Assembly: 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.**





## WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



### SENDING HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #320)

### The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -  
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered  
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

**BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle. May you know that the world is bigger than two sides. May you trust that you are made in the image of God, and therefore, you contain multitudes. So may you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between. Believe that good news and go in peace.

**Assembly:** **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

**Assisting Minister:** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Assembly:** **Thanks be to God.**

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