

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are glad you could be with us today, especially if you are visiting with us for the first time. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you. You can greet our pastor as you leave the sanctuary after services. Please stop by our Guest Welcome Center near the Fellowship Hall for more information. We pray that you will consider becoming a part of our Holy Cross family. **Both members & visitors please complete the connection card in the pew pockets** (or scan the QR code below to complete online). Place the card in the offering plate on your way out. NOTE: You can give online at our website or place in offering plates at back of sanctuary (we don't pass plates).

A WORD ABOUT COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Saturday and Sunday (except on FRIEND DAYS), and all festival services. Lutherans believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present "in, with and under" the bread and wine in the Supper and is given to us for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. All communicants should have been baptized in the name of the Triune God and have faith in these words of Jesus: "This IS my Body given for you...This IS my Blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Instruction on this and the Lutheran Church takes place through First Communion, Confirmation, and membership classes or meeting with the pastor. To inquire, contact the church office at your convenience. If you will not be receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, you may remain in your pew or come forward for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest as a sign that you will not be receiving. Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cups tray. **Gluten-free wafers are packaged and placed in wafer bowl, indicate to server.**



SURVEY QUESTION

Which events interest you most?

- A. Church picnic
- B. Outdoor activities
- C. Church camping trip
- D. Mission trip

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP You may light a candle and enter the sanctuary in reverence, find a seat and take a moment to pray and be still. Please keep all social dialogue in the Narthex.

FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED We are equipped with a personal hearing assistance system. If you would like a receiver for the service, please see an usher.

WE CAN PRAY WITH YOU If you would like someone to pray for you or with you, the pastor, deacons or one of the Elders will join you at the Chancel rail following the worship service.

**The Presentation of Our Lord (observed)
Sexagesima Sunday
February 4, 2024**

Lutheran Service Book, Divine 4, page 203

Sexagesima Sunday (Latin for sixtieth) Approximately 60 days until Easter. This is the 8th Sunday before Easter and the 2nd Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The origin is from Church Worship in the Middle Ages

Prelude

Welcome, Connection Card and Announcements

Please stand if you are able.

Processional Hymn “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” LSB 655

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
 Curb those who by deceit or sword
 Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
 And bring to naught all He has done.

- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,
 For You are Lord of lords alone;
 Defend Your holy Church that we
 May sing Your praise eternally.

- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
 Send peace and unity on earth;
 Support us in our final strife
 And lead us out of death to life.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel if you are able.

Take a moment to confess in your heart what is on your mind.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 44:1-2,7-8

P Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord?
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!

C **For our soul is bowed down to the dust.
Rise up; come to our help!**

P O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us,

what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:

C you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted;
you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free.

P But you have saved us from our foes
and have put to shame those who hate us.

C In God we have boasted continually,
and we will give thanks to your name forever.

ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Kyrie

(from Mark 10:47)

LSB page 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB page 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

“ O Jesus I Have Promised”

Holy Cross Choir

Epistle

Hebrews 4:9-13

⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB page 205



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 8:4–15

D The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

D This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB page 206

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and

for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day “From the Hand of the Sower Sowing”

- 1 From the hand of the sower sowing,
Good seed is strewn about;
Some seed drops by the roadside,
There eaten before it can sprout.
Hear now the parable’s message:
God’s Word is sown today;
Guard well that truth, or Satan
Will come and snatch it away.

- 2 From the hand of the sower sowing,
Good seed is freely thrown;
Some seed sprouts with a flourish,
But withers before it is grown.
Hear now the parable’s message:
God’s Word is sown today;
Root deep in Christ, or troubles
Could quickly lead you astray.

3 From the hand of the sower sowing,
Good seed is scattered wide;
Some seed grows among thistles,
Is choked there until it has died.
Hear now the parable's message:
God's Word is sown today;
Pull weeds of wealth and worry,
Keep watch, and constantly pray.

4 From the hand of the sower sowing,
Good seed is sown in fields;
Some seed falls on good soil,
It grows and abundantly yields.
Hear now the parable's message:
God's Word is wholesome seed;
Comes to our hearts producing
The faith and life that we need.

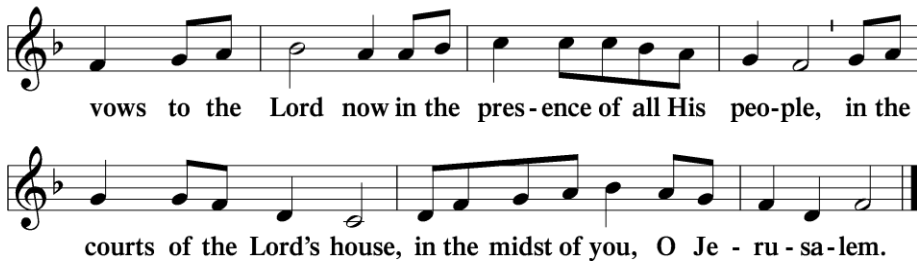
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Sermon

Offertory

LSB page 159

What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



Please stand if you are able.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord of the harvest, You send Your Word down on earth to give seed to the sower and bread to the eater. You are living and active among us, calling to repentance and raising to new life. Lead us not into temptation, and protect us from the crafts and assaults of the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh, which do not want us to hallow Your name or let Your kingdom come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Send forth laborers into Your harvest, that we may be preserved in the pure teaching of Your saving Word, whereby faith toward You is strengthened, charity increased in us toward all and Your kingdom extended in all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, convict and guide on the leaders of the world to follow your truth. We pray that war, hate and bloodshed would be overcome by peace, justice and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Loving Father, have compassion on the sick and suffering [*especially* _____]. Make them to know Your peace, which the world cannot give, and bring them out of all their troubles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have sown Your Holy Word among us. Prepare our hearts by

Your Holy Spirit, that we may diligently and reverently hear Your Word, keep it in good hearts, and bring forth fruit with patience; and that we may not incline to sin, but subdue it by Your power, and in all persecutions comfort ourselves with Your grace and continual help; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB page 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

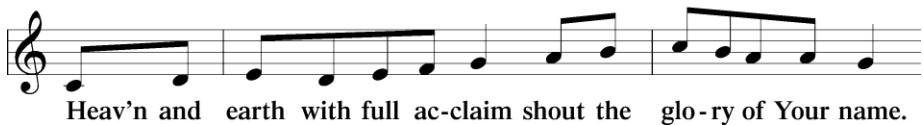
P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

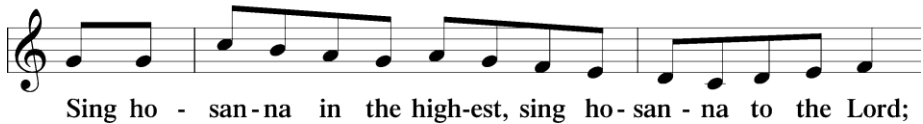
LSB page 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho- san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB page 209

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

(from Matthew 6:9-13)

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 Words of Our Lord

(From 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 when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

Pax Domini (from John 20:19)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God John 1:29

LSB page 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated.

Anthem "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Holy Cross Choir

Distribution Hymn "Your Table I Approach"

LSB 628

- 1 Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there.
- 2 Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.
- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Please stand if you are able.

Nunc Dimittis

(from Luke 2:29-32)

LSB page 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

LSB page 212

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

Benedicamus (from Psalm 103:1)

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction (from 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 favor and † give you His peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn "How Great Thou Art"

LSB 801

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; Refrain

Refrain Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain

3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" Refrain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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