

## 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

No survey questions during the Lenten season.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Fourth Saturday in Lent**  
**Laetare**  
**March 9, 2024**

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**Laetare:** This is the 3rd Sunday before Easter. It is about half-way through Lent. Historically, some churches used rose colored vestments on Laetare Sunday, which is associated with the 3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete. It is from Isaiah 66:10. The origin is from Church Worship in the Middle Ages. The Introit for the Day is: Rejoice O Jerusalem; and gather round, all you who esteem her...

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME, CONNECTION CARD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INVOCATION**

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

**All:** **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** 1 John 1:8 & 9 says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(pause to for silent confession)

**All:** **Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, in Jesus Name. Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

**All: Amen.**

Please stand and share the peace with someone.

## **OPENING SONG #1          “Revive Us Again”**

### **Verse 1**

**When You move hearts awaken, Broken lives will be redeemed.  
Here and now as in heaven, Let revival be released.**

### **Chorus**

**Hear our cry, heal our land, O God we pray for revival.  
What You’ve done before, You can do again,  
O God we pray for revival.**

### **Verse 2,**

**God of grace God of salvation, We are desp'rate on our knees.  
You can save this generation, Let revival be released.**

### **Chorus, 2 times**

Solo

O God revive us again

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## **PASTOR’S PRAYER**

## **OPENING SONG #2**

“Sing To Jesus”

### **Verse 1 Solo**

Come and see, Look on this mystery.  
The Lord of the universe, Nailed to a tree.  
Christ our God, Spilling His holy blood.  
Bowing in anguish, His sacred head.

### **Verse 1 ALL**

**Come and see, Look on this mystery.  
The Lord of the universe, Nailed to a tree.  
Christ our God, Spilling His holy blood.  
Bowing in anguish, His sacred head.**

### **Chorus 1, Solo**

Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame.  
Lord of our sinful hearts, He is our great Redeemer.  
Sing to Jesus, Honor His name.  
Sing of His faithfulness. Pouring His life out unto death.

### **Chorus ALL**

**Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame.  
Lord of our sinful hearts, He is our great Redeemer.  
Sing to Jesus, Honor His name.  
Sing of His faithfulness. Pouring His life out unto death**

### **Verse 2, ALL**

**Come you weary, And He will give you rest.  
Come you who mourn, Lay on His breast.  
Christ who died, Risen in paradise.  
Giver of mercy, Giver of life.**

### **Chorus 2, ALL**

**Sing to Jesus, His is the throne,  
Now and forever, He is the King of heaven.  
Sing to Jesus, we are His own,  
Now and forever, Sing for the love our God has shown.**

You may be seated.

## VIDEO

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 16:2-21

<sup>2</sup>And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, <sup>3</sup>and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup>and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” <sup>8</sup>And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’” <sup>10</sup>And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

<sup>13</sup>In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. <sup>14</sup>And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the

people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" <sup>17</sup>And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. <sup>18</sup>But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. <sup>19</sup>And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." <sup>20</sup>But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. <sup>21</sup>Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Acts 2:41-47

<sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:1-15

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

All: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. <sup>5</sup>Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. <sup>11</sup>Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" <sup>15</sup>Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please be seated

## SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**All:** 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.**

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER,**

At the end of the prayer the congregation responds with **Amen.**

#### **PASTOR'S PRAYER**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Let us now pray the prayer our Lord taught us.

**All:** **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.**



## **JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor: 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."

Pastor: 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."

Pastor: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

**All: Amen.**

## **THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

Please be seated until the usher releases your pew.

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

### **THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **CLOSING SONG #1**

### **“Give Us Clean Hands”**

#### **Verse**

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees;  
Oh Spirit, come make us humble.  
We turn our eyes from evil things;  
Oh Lord, we cast down our idols.

#### **Chorus**

Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts;  
Let us not lift our souls to another.  
Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts;  
Let us not lift our souls to another.  
And oh God, let us be a generation that seeks,  
That seeks Your face, oh God of Jacob;  
And oh God, let us be a generation that seeks,  
That seeks Your face, oh God of Jacob.

(repeat song)

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## **CLOSING SONG #2**

### **“Be Thou My Vision”**

- 1           Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart.  
              Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
              Thou my best thought by day or by night.  
              Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
  
- 2           Be Thou my Wisdom and Thou my true Word.  
              I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.  
              Thou my great Father. I Thy true son.  
              Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.
  
- 3           Be Thou my battle Shield. Sword for the fight.  
              Be Thou my Dignity. Thou my Delight.  
              Thou my soul's Shelter. Thou my high Tower.  
              Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

- 4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise.  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always.  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart.  
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.
- 5 High King of Heaven. My victory won.  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall.  
Still my Vision, O Ruler of all.

**CLOSING SONG #3** "The Summons"

Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

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## **FINAL BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE**