

"The Challenges and Blessings of Following Christ"

January 29, 2023

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Service of the Word – Page 38

Opening Hymn #16 vs 1, 2 & 5....."On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Confession of Sins

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Taste and See



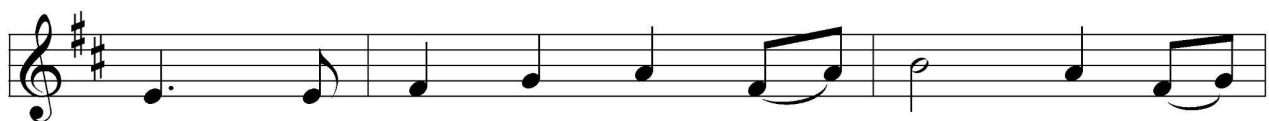
C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



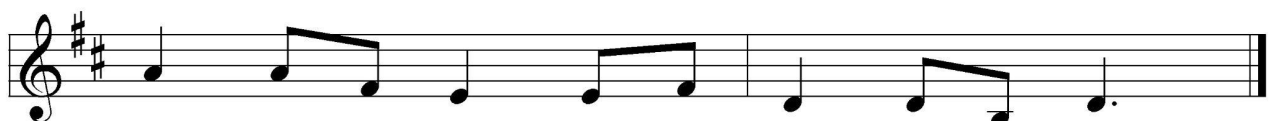
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

The First LessonIsaiah 9:1-4

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. ²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. ³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. ⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian.

Psalm of the DayPsalm 27

M: Hear me, O Lord. With my voice I call.

C: **Be merciful to me and answer me.**

M: Do not hide your face from me.

C: **Do not turn your servant away in anger. You have been my help.**

M: Do not reject me or forsake me, O God who saves me.

C: **If my father and my mother abandoned me, the Lord would take me in.**

M: I am confident to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

C: **Wait for the Lord. Be strong and take heart, and wait for the Lord!**

Second Lesson1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Let followers of Christ be perfectly united

¹⁰Brothers, I am making an appeal to you using the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I ask that you all express the same view and not have any divisions among you, but that you be joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. ¹¹For the news I heard about you, my brothers, from members of Chloe's household, is that there are rivalries among you. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that I baptized you into my own name. ¹⁶(I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides them, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel—not with the wisdom used in speeches, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power.

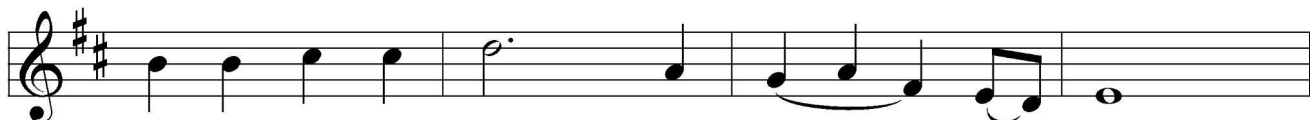
Verse of the Day



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we 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!

Children's Sermon (8:30)

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (10:30)

Harper Grace Liermann

Hymn #538 vs 1, 3, 4 & 5....."The Church's One Foundation"

1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

3 The Church shall never perish.
Her dear Lord, to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end.
Though there be those that hate her
And strive to see her fail,
Against both foe and traitor
She ever shall prevail.

4 Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

5 Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Sermon Chaplain Don Moldstad "The Challenges and Blessings of Following Christ"
Matthew 4:12-23

¹²When Jesus heard that John was put in prison, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴He did this to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁵Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, ¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and on those dwelling in the region and the shadow of death a light has dawned. ¹⁷From that time, Jesus began to preach: "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near." ¹⁸As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. ¹⁹He said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed him. ²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody consists of the following notes: a dotted quarter note on G4, a half note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on G4, and a quarter note on F#4. The notes are connected by a slur under the first three notes. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Hymn #551 vs 1, 3, 5 & 6....."For All the Saints"

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who their faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon, to faithful warriors comes their rest.
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Offering

New Member Reception

Rachel Sellnow

Joe Liermann

Ted Turnquist

Prayer of the Church

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

C: **You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: **You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

M: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Hymn #541 vs 1, 3, 4, 5 & 7....."Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide"

1 Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide,
Nor let your Word, that heav'nly light,
For us be ever veiled in night.

3 In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent,
Your holy Word and sacrament.

4 Lord Jesus, help, your Church uphold,
For we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold.
Oh, prosper well your Word of grace,
And spread its truth in ev'ry place.

5 Oh, keep us in your Word, we pray;
The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may your mercy never cease!
Give concord, patience, courage, peace.

7 Oh, grant that in your holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord,
And when our journey's ending here,
Receive us into glory there.

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Announcements

If you attended online services at Holy Cross, please send an email to frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org, and in the subject line write "Attended" and after that the number of people who watched from your home. So if three of you watch the service on Sunday, your subject line would say, "Attended 3". Please don't write anything in the text of the email, since our secretary, Jodi Hougan, will not be responding to emails that say "Attended" in the subject line.
Thanks.

Holy Cross News & Notes

January 29, 2023

Monday

- Worship - 6:30 pm
- Bible Information Class - 7:30 pm

Tuesday

- Jesus Cares Meeting - 6:30 pm

Wednesday

- School Chapel - 8:10 am
- Bible Study-10 am
- Public School Catechism - 4:30 pm
- Senior Handbells - 6:00 pm
- Senior Choir -7:00 pm

Thursday

- Ladies Aid - 1:00 pm

Sunday

- Worship - 8:30 and 10:30 am
- Sunday School - 9:45 am
- Adult Bible Study - 9:45 am

EASTER FLOWERS

Even though Easter isn't until April 9, it's time to order Easter flowers for the altar. You may order Easter lilies or pink azaleas. Orders must be in by Monday, February 20. There is a box on the counter in the Welcome Center with order forms. Easter lilies are \$18.00 and pink azaleas are \$38.00. You may pick up your plant(s) after the second service on Easter Sunday or during the following week to enjoy at home or to give to a home-bound member, family member or friend. Make checks payable to Holy Cross Altar Guild.

2023 Altar Flower Chart

The 2023 altar flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center near the Fireside Room. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, sign up with your name, contact information, and the occasion. You can bring in your own flowers or the Altar Guild will order flowers for you. The usual bouquet is \$40 but you can make it any amount you like. Make checks payable to HOLY CROSS ALTAR GUILD. Drop off or mail your check in an envelope marked ALTAR FLOWERS. You may take the bouquet after the last church service and enjoy it at home.

Benefits of Chocolate

We are excited to announce that our Chocolate Extravaganza will be returning to Holy Cross this year on Saturday, April 1st, from 5:30pm to 9:00pm. The evening will be filled with fine-chocolate tasting, hors d'oeuvres, great fellowship and a silent auction. What are the benefits? You'll have fun, get to spend time with fellow Christians, and best of all, funds raised will go to Partners in Christ, which provides tuition and educational assistance to families here at Holy Cross. Please reserve April 1 on your calendar, and watch announcements for more information. If you or someone you know would like to make a monetary contribution or donate a silent auction item, please reach out to Tricia Blaschka (troachie1@hotmail.com) or Nicolle Ward (dego88m@gmail.com). **Kids Crossing Job Opportunities:** Contact Linda Grennan at lgrennan@holycrossmadison.org for more info

2 year old assistant

OUR SAVIOR WELCOMES YOU AND SO DO WE! Whether you are a first time visitor or returning guest, we are delighted to share our worship with you! Please come back and worship with us again!

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES We love to have children in worship! However, parents who find a need to take their children out of the service are welcome to use the narthex/lobby area while you quiet your little one. The infant care room is also available for nursing mothers. You'll be able to hear the service from the speaker system in the narthex and in the infant care room. A changing table is in the men's and women's bathrooms. If needed, please ask an usher for assistance.

A HEARING LOOP is installed in our new sanctuary for your convenience. If your hearing aid has a t-switch, you'll need to activate it when you're in the sanctuary, in order to benefit from the hearing loop.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES Holy Cross offers a full Christian elementary school (grades PreK3 – 8), Kids Crossing Early Learning Center (6 weeks – 5 years), Sunday School and children's youth activities.

Attendance Last Week: 376

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School is to bring the Gospel of Christ to our community through the Means of Grace, reaching out to the lost, and nurturing our fellow believers. This we do through worship, education, service and fellowship that God's kingdom may grow.