



**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
MINNEAPOLIS**

Welcome to worship at Holy Cross! We are glad that you are here.

We practice open communion, welcoming all to Christ's table to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Communion is typically served on the second and last Sundays of each month.

Child care is available in the nursery for young children. Talk to an usher if you would like to make use of the nursery.

Hearing assist devices and large-print bulletins are available. Ask an usher if you are interested.

If you are seeking pastoral care, please speak to the pastor today, or call or email Pastor Jay at 612-722-1083 or pastorjay@holycrossmpls.org

We invite ordinary people with everyday struggles, who need a place to lighten the load.

We offer a hug if you need one, a blessing if you seek one, and a place to belong if you want one.

Hymnals: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW, the red cover hymnal), The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH, blue hardcover hymnal), and With One Voice (WOV, blue paperback cover)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Take My Life and Let It Be

Thomas Keesecker

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:8-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;
who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.**

You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

P: The gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord

handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359

APOSTLES' CREED

ELW p. 105

Let us confess the faith of the church.

**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.**

**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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*You are invited to exchange words and signs of peace
with those around you.*

Children and their caregivers are dismissed to Sunday School.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Create in Me

ELW 188

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 208

**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.**

BENEDICTION

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

In Thee Is Gladness

ELW 867

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School & Adult Study

Holy Cross's exciting children's ministry program starts today. Each week, students of all ages are invited to take part in 30 minutes of learning intended just for them. We'll hear stories of faith, engage in creative projects, and have a lot of fun!

Families can attend worship together beginning at 9:30 am. Students will be invited to leave worship a little early and gather in another room with their teachers from 10:15 to 10:45 am. Parents and other caregivers may join their students or enjoy a time of coffee and conversation.

All ages are invited to join us for our Sunday Forum after the worship service from 10:45 to 11:30 am, September through May. We explore a variety of topics in a casual multi-generational setting.

"God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday

Thank you to all who used your hands for God's work last Sunday, September 10! Together we made 177 sandwiches for our neighbors in need at Our Savior's Housing in Minneapolis. The sandwiches were much appreciated and brought the love of God from inside the walls of Holy Cross out into our community.

New member reception

We will officially receive new members in October. If you are interested in membership, please call the church office or talk with Pastor Jay.

Saturday Bible Study

Each Saturday there is an opportunity to join a weekly Saturday morning Bible study online. Holy Cross member Doug Morton is a retired Lutheran pastor and is leading a study on the scripture passages that will be read in worship each week. There is a Zoom link sent via email on Tuesday so that you can join the study from your home or wherever you happen to be. If you do not receive the email, contact the church office for information on how to join. The studies will be held each Saturday morning, from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

Gardener of the week

Thanks to Kim Blomberg who has volunteered to water this coming week. Working together we can keep the gardens looking bright and flourishing. Open dates remain in September and maybe into October. Please help if you can!

Minneapolis Area Synod Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering

Women of the ELCA are coming together to learn, grow, connect and be part of something extraordinary, igniting love, and creating a ripple effect of positivity throughout our community – one act of love at a time! The gathering will be Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 9 am to 5 pm at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights.

You will be inspired by Bible study, worship, connection, music, and friendship. Bishop Ann Svennungsen will preside at worship and deliver a powerful message! There will be opportunities to explore mental health and loneliness, social justice, and women's imprisonment. Refreshing activities to include coffee and lunch, childcare, chair massage, and yoga. Serve through on-site impact projects and a global market. There will be onsite childcare.

Visit MplsWomenOfELCA.org to learn more and secure your spot for this transformative day!

Statistics

The attendance on Sunday, September 10, was 48. The total offering was \$2,994.65, including \$5 for the Building Fund, and \$1 for the Synod.

Upcoming dates

- Sept 21 Trustees meeting, 7 pm
- Oct 1 Marathon Cheer Station, after worship
- Oct 4 Blessing of the Animals, 6 pm
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day Service, 9:30 am

SERVING TODAY

Sunday, Sunday, September 17

September Altar Guild: Mary Lange

Counters: Adam Horrmann and Gail Klatt

Lector: Andy Tatham

Organist: Julie Wright

Pastor: Rev. Jay Carlson

Audio: James Blomberg

Video: Ed Copeland

Treats: Kim Blomberg

Usher: Andy Tatham

Next Sunday, September 24

September Altar Guild: Mary Lange

Communion Assistant: Steve McConley

Counters: Mary Lange and Keith Lange

Lector: Steve Blomberg

Organist: Scott Rohr

Pastor: Rev. Jay Carlson

Audio: James Blomberg

Video: Ed Copeland

Treats: Mary Lange

Usher: Tim Phelon

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