Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Our Mission

We gather as an open community of Christians, responding to God's call. We welcome all people as members of our extended family. We gather to support and nourish one another in the faith, equipping people to live the Gospel in the world. Our purpose is to encounter the Gospel in worship, play, study, music, work, prayer and activism. We provide worship that is diverse, flexible, thought provoking and relevant to our challenging times. We are a voice for compassion and actively seek justice and peace in the world. We identify and serve our neighbors in need. We offer programs that encourage spiritual growth by teaching the Gospel in the Lutheran tradition. We provide opportunities to work, play and pray together.

Everyone Is Welcome!

In response to the overwhelming love of God we stand in awe of the wideness of God's mercy. In faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, mindful of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and rejoicing in the celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we welcome as members of our extended family, all those who have ever felt excluded by the Church because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental challenges, financial resources, or family status.

As followers of Christ, all members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church are compelled by the Gospel to seek reconciliation and wholeness in a world that is all too often an unloving place. Therefore, rejoicing in God's abundant grace, we extend a special welcome to all. Whether you are gay, straight, lesbian or bisexual; whatever your country of origin or ancestry; whether you are a believer, a doubter or a seeker; in Christ's love, we welcome you, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we can work together to usher in God's Reign of justice, peace, and mercy.

How long will grown men and women in this world keep drawing in their colouring books an image of God that makes them sad?

Meister Ekhart (1260-1328)
Good Friday
Service of Lament

We gather in Silence
At please stand if you are able.

Prayer of the Day
Opening Song
First Reading
Response:

#353 Were You There?
John 18:1-12

God, Why are You Silent

1. O God, why are you silent? I... held, at strength misused...
2. Now lost, I... atchildren's... fist, at trust betrayed...
3. My hope bruised and battered, my mouths, at women's... melt, for peace to seed...
4. Through endless... through, in no... days of grief, in your heart is in your...
5. May pain draw forth compassion, let... vio... spent and spent...

We leave in silence.

Offering plates are located at the entrance of the sanctuary for your convenience.
You are invited to respond to the words:
“Life-giving Spirit of God...”
with the words: “Let us be LOVE in the world!”

Prayers of the Body

Trisagion sung three times in unison

Dismissal

Hymn: God Weeps printed on the next page
TEXT: Shirley Erna Murray; Music: Jim Strathdee
Printed under LiscenSing #1975
When illness meets denial and rejection,
when friends recoil and faces turn to stone,
Christ of our Sorrows, raise us from dejection,
to travel on, assailed but not alone.
Forgive your Church’s searing, numbing silence,
unholyc huddles, muddles and delays.
Forgive our zeal to hide the fear that drives us
with harsh, unloving words, unhealing ways.

Help us resist, refuse all vengeful naming
of lepers, plagues, and punishment for sin,
with love’s determined power to banish blaming,
shed light and truth, and heal the hurt within.
Show us our hidden strength and human limits.
Free us from guilt, self-hatred and despair,
to celebrate, as flesh-embodied spirits,
our body’s beauty, and our Makers’ care.

Give us, amid our passion and persistence,
the peace that wishful thinking cannot fake.
Link us in loving circles of resistance,
with love of life that death can never break.
Through summer joys, and winters of dejection,
help us, by faith, to travel, weep and sing,
with hearts that reap the fruit of resurrection,
and hands that bear the loving touch of spring.

Reflecting on the Cross

P: Behold the Cross upon which Embodied-Love was executed!
C: We see Christ in whose body was named all the violence of the world;
   In Christ our memories of profound grief
   hangs vulnerable before the world.
   In the shadow of the cross, we lay the violence and fear,
   the unremembered wounds that have misshaped our world,
   the unforgotten and unforgiven injuries,
   the crimes of tribes and clans,
   the inclinations that lead to hatred and poverty.

P: Behold the Cross upon which Embodied-Love was executed!
C: We see Christ in whose body was named the pain of the world;
   In Christ our fear of death hangs with savage intensity.
   In the shadow of the cross, we lay the fear that haunts us,
   the lives short-lived in fear and trembling,
   the dreams of peace that die still-born,
   the cries of those who thirst and hunger,
   the clenched fists that love longs to open.

P: Behold the Cross upon which Embodied-Love was executed!
C: We see Christ in whose body was named the poverty of this world;
   In Christ our greed and hatreds pierce and wound the heart of God.
   In the shadow of the cross, we lay our self-centered foolishness,
   our silence at the pain of others,
   our tight-held grasp on power,
   our failures to respond with grace,
   our simple-minded lack of courage.

P: Neither darkness, death, nor evil acts can conquer LOVE.
   LOVE transforms the cross from
   an instrument of torture, terror and death
   to a symbol that proclaims the power of LOVE to stand up for justice
   so that through justice we can achieve peace in all of creation.
Response: **Christ, Within Us Hidden**

TUNE: Now the Day is Over; TEXT: S. Curtis Tufts

Christ, within us hidden.
Christ, in all and each.
Christ, who comes unbidden.
Christ, within our reach.
Christ, born in our stable,
Christ, our daily bread.
Christ, host at our table.
Christ, the hungry fed.
Christ, in friendship's sharing.
Christ, in stranger's face.
Christ, reborn in caring.
Christ, in love's embrace.
Christ, in bodies broken,
Love new crucified.
Christ, in Word new spoken,
death by love defied.

Christ, in love recovered.
Christ, in hope revealed.
Christ, in faith discovered.
Christ, in tombs unsealed.

Homily

Hymn of the Day **#699 In Deepest Night**

Jesus’ 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.*

---

Fourth Reading

**John 18:28-19:16**

Response

**Why Stand So Far Away**

TUNE: Martyrdom; TEXT: Ruth Duck

Why stand so far away, my God?
Why hide in times of need?
The proud, unbridled, chase the poor,
and curse you in their greed.

Why do you hide when, full of lies,
they murder and betray?
They wait to pounce upon the weak
as lions stalk their prey.

The weak are crushed and fall to earth:
the wicked strut and preen.
Why in these cruel, chaotic times
cannot your face be seen.

In ages past you heard the voice
of those the proud oppress.
Remember those who suffer now,
who cry in deep distress.

Arise, O God and lift your hand;
bring justice to the poor.
Come, help us stop the flow of blood!
Let terror reign no more!

Fifth Reading

**John 19:17-25**
Sixth Reading

**How Could a God Whose Name is Love?**

**Solo:**

TEXT: Mary Lee Hall; MUSIC: Barry Peters

*If I should die and leave you here awhile*
*Be not like others*
*Sore undone,*
*Who keep long vigils by silent dust and weep*
--long vigils by the silent dust and weep
*weep, weep, weep, weep*

*For my sake, for my sake, turn again to life*
*and smile, nerving they heart and trembling hand to do something*
*to comfort other hearts, other hearts than thine.*

*Complete those dear unfinished tasks of mine, I, perchance, may there-in comfort you.*

Seventh Reading

**John 19:26-30**

**Seventh Reading**

**John 19:31-42**