

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 69 WARDA, TX 78960

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn: *“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”* *TLH Hymn 210*

1. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The strife is o’er, the battle done; Now is the Victor’s triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!
2. Death’s mightiest pow’rs have done their worst, and Jesus hath His foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst. Alleluia!
3. On the third morn He rose again Glorious in majesty to reign;
Oh, let us swell the joyful strain! Alleluia!
4. He closed the yawning gates of hell; The bars from heavn’s high portals fell.
Let songs of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia.
5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death’s dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

C:  **Amen.**

The Confession of Sins & Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God,
our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C:  **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C:  **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end, that by Thy grace, we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name, He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Introit

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;*

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Seek the Lord and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Gloria Patri

Pg. 6ff.

♪ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Kyrie

♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis

♪ Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King. God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Salutation & The Collect for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 5:29-42 (ESV)

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking

is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor,

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse

P: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. .

C: Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them,

“Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Apostle's Creed

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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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn: ***“Ye Sons and Daughters of the King”*** ***TLH Hymn 208***

1. Ye sons and daughters of the King, Whom heavenly hosts in glory sing,
today the grave has lost its sting; Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. On that first morning of the week, Before the day began to break,
The Mary's went their Lord to seek: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

- 3 An angel bade their sorrow flee, For thus he spake unto the three,
"Your Lord doth go to Galilee." Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 4 That night the apostles met in fear; Amidst them came their Lord most dear
and said, "My peace be with you here." Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 5 When Thomas afterwards heard That Jesus had fulfilled His word,
He doubted if it were the Lord: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 6 "Thomas, behold My side" saith He, "My hands, My feet, My body, see;
And doubt not, but believe in Me": Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied; He saw the feet, the hands, the side.
"Thou art my Lord and God!" he cried: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 8 Blessed are they that have not seen And yet whose faith has constant been,
In life eternal they shall reign: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 9 On this most holy day of days To God your hearts and voices raise
In laud and jubilee and praise: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
10. And we with holy Church unite, As evermore is just and right,
In glory to the King of light: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Sermon

"Peace for Our Time "

Hymn:

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

TLH Hymn 193

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n today," Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er; Lo, He sets in blood no more.
3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise; Christ has opened paradise.
4. Lives again our glorious King; Where, O Death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O Grave?

5. Soar we now where Christ has led, Following our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
6. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Praise to Thee by both be given!
Thee we greet triumphant now; Hail, the Resurrection Thou!

The Prayers of the Day

Hear us, merciful Father, as we pray for ourselves, for the Church, for our nation and for all conditions and manner of people.

God of mercy, keep us from the doubts and fears that cripple us and prevent us from knowing the fullness of Your saving peace and gracious presence. Teach us to trust in Your Word and to believe with all our hearts, minds, bodies and strength in Jesus Christ, crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, bestow upon Your Church Your Holy Spirit and all the gifts that come down from on high. Grant to us faithful pastors who will preach faithfully and ears to hear Your Word proclaimed. Give us boldness in our witness before the world and courage to speak Your name without fear. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of power, give courage and strength to those persecuted for the faith, and comfort the families of the martyrs. Keep Your Church from following the winds of change, and make her steadfast in the doctrine of the apostles and the faith once delivered to the saints. Help us to admonish those who have fallen away with Your Word and to restore with gentleness those who have wandered from the truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of might, counsel the nations and their leaders in the paths of peace and justice. Bless us with wise, faithful and just leaders who will protect the sanctity of life and defend us against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Make us wise and discerning citizens who use the gift of liberty for noble purpose. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, teach us to love one another as You have loved us. Guide us so that in our neighborhoods and communities we may manifest the love of Christ as well as His strength. Deliver us from all that would threaten our homes and families. Protect the police, firefighters, disaster-relief workers and medical personnel who attend to us, as well as the places where we live and work. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, give Your aid and relief to all who suffer want or need, to the sick in their afflictions, to those troubled in mind, and to those to whom death draws near especially

Amy, Jorge, Robert, Jana, Wesley, John, those in our hearts and those on our continued prayer list. Heal and sustain them according to Your gracious will, and preserve them in faith to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, be with those who grieve the loss of those whom they love. Point them to the promise of the resurrection and the gift of everlasting life to all who die in Christ. Deliver us from the distractions of things that do not matter, that we may focus on the needful things of Your Word and Sacraments and so be found faithful when our Lord returns in His glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, bless us with the good gifts of the earth, with the fruits of our honest labors, and with a kind and generous heart. Accept the worship of our hearts and voices along with the tithes and offerings we bring as part of our gratitude and thanksgiving. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of the poor, that we may serve them in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O blessed God and Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and teach us to trust in Your will to answer our prayers with all that is needful and beneficial, both for us and for all for whom we have prayed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.

The Collect for the Word/Church

P: Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C: ♪ Amen.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless Thee and keep Thee. The Lord make His face shine upon Thee and be gracious unto Thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon Thee and † give Thee peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Closing Hymn:

“The Day of Resurrection”

LSB Hymn 478

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From sins dominion free,
Our Christ hath brought us over, With hymns of victory.
2. Let hearts be purged of evil, That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light;
And list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,
His own “All hail!” and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful! Let earth the song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph, And all that is therein!
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes in gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen, Our joy that has no end.
4. All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r and glory Ascribe to God alone!

Outreach Thought

John 20:19-31: On Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared to His disciples when Thomas was absent. In joy, the disciples told Thomas, “We have seen the Lord!” Their witness was true even though Thomas at first doubted. Just because someone does not believe our witness to Jesus as our Lord and Savior should not discourage us from sharing our faith openly and boldly. Sharing is our challenge! Changing hearts is God’s work! And thanks be to God, we have a patient and compassionate Savior who welcomes and encourages us in our doubts to “poke and prod” and says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!” Pray for the opportunity to share your faith with someone who is doubting and ask the Holy Spirit to work mightily to change their heart. God is faithful and His Word works miracles of faith every day.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Class THIS Sunday:

Through the use of an application called Zoom, we will be able to "meet" virtually for our Sunday morning Bible class! We will continue our study of Baptism at 10:15am. To join the meeting, please visit the following link (it may require a small download to access the meeting): <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75125070234> (if the link doesn't work, the Meeting ID is 751 2507 0234)

ALL services, meetings and events at Holy Cross continue to be cancelled until further notice. Please watch our Facebook page and your email for additional updates and information. Pastor Beck will be uploading Sunday services, along with devotions and Bible Studies during the week. Look for them as follows:

Facebook:

Page: Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Group: Holy Cross Warda—Private Group

YouTube: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warda, TX

Website: www.holycrosswarda.com

Pastor Beck is also available to visit with you by phone. You can give him a call at the church office at (979) 242-3333 or call or text him at (979) 966-8654. His email address is pastor.dustin.beck@gmail.com. At this time, unless it is an end-of-life emergency, he will not be making any home or hospital visits.

Private Communion - The elders and Pastor have decided that small gatherings of families will be able, by appointment, to receive the Lord's Supper. Pastor will use every precaution available to limit contact between individuals. Please call the church office or Pastor's cell phone to make arrangements.

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer: Hopefully, you were able to make use of Dinnertime Devotions during Holy Week--and hopefully, you enjoyed your time invested in God's Word! In an effort to further equip the saints at Holy Cross, Pastor has put together a sheet that may be of use in your devotional life at home. It includes suggested readings, prayers, a hymn, a short segment from the Small Catechism, and a few other useful tools. It can be used alone, or with your hymnal, following Matins or Vespers. It will be available on our website, on Facebook, and there will be copies available in the back of the sanctuary. Additionally, you can find short orders of worship for families or individuals here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7qs5vo4> May God's Word richly bless us as we read and pray together!

Online Giving is now available!! There are two options you can use: One, go to www.holycrosswarda.com and click on the tab at the top for Online Giving. It will take you directly to the page to submit your offering either by credit card or bank draft. You will receive an email from Vanco acknowledging your transaction.

The second way is to download the Giving+ app on your mobile device. Find Holy Cross Lutheran Church using our 78942 zip code (for our physical address) and submit your contribution there via credit card or bank draft. Processing time for both methods is 2-3 business days.

For now, the General Fund is the only fund that is set up to receive donations. Additional funds may be added in the future. All contributions made via the online or mobile app will be credited to your yearly statement. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

<u>Our Response to God's Blessings</u>	
	<u>April 5 & 12</u>
Estimated General Fund Weekly Need	\$ 4,077 (\$8,154 every two weeks)
Offering Received	\$ 9,795
Short/Over	\$ 1,641

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

FLHS Distant Learning

Who would have thought that the beginning of March, when our students left for spring break, would be the last time our students have been on campus this semester? We recognize this situation has impacted not only us, but our community and nation also.

We ask for your prayers, as we have made the transition into online delivery of classes. Our faculty has worked diligently to make this unexpected transition as smooth as possible. Our students understand the need for this, but are anxious to get back onto campus, to their Faith family.

This pandemic has made our fundraising efforts more challenging, but yet, still necessary. Thankfully, we have the assurance that God's word is true and "His love endures forever" (Ps. 136). Will you consider partnering with us as we carry out our mission in this new environment? Thank you, on behalf of the students who will be instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders tomorrow, for your generous support.

Archery Camp

Archery camp, which was scheduled for May 4 to 6, has been postponed. Please watch for an updated date, once the shelter in place order has been lifted.

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is underway. Two new students have already enrolled and we are looking to add more students to our family. Are you looking for a Christ-centered education, a rigorous college prep curriculum, small class sizes? Schedule a shadow day and check out FLHS!! Call (979) 242-2889 today!

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Nikki Kueck to learn more.

Mark Your Calendars for These (Tentative) Events

Spring Thing! - **May 13th** - 7pm - FLHS Choir Concert
Golf Tournament - **May 30th**



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR TODAY

Amy Wagner, Jorge Thomas (*Donna Thomas*), Robert Yurk (*Al & William Jurk*), Jana Tindle (*Gerald & Mary Sledge*), Wesley Cervenka (*Debbie Knox*), John Gallup (*Wendy Wagner*)

All those on our continued prayer list

Health, safety, and patience for everyone quarantined at home

Nursing home and Assisted Living Center residents who cannot have visitors

Family of nursing home and assisted living center residents who cannot visit their loved one

Guidance for our national and local leaders as they look at how to get back to “normalcy”

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Hulda Graf who passed away on Thursday evening at Care Inn. Services will be held at a later date.

The Lutheran Hour — April 26

"The Great Pursuit"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti

Being pursued is a terrifying place to be. And, unfortunately, we all live there. But the good news is that we're not the only ones being pursued. You and I have a Lord Who pursues the pursuer. We have a Savior Who will not let the enemy of His people have the last word. (Exodus 15)