

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

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

The Risen Lord Jesus Is with Us in Holy Baptism and in 'the Breaking of the Bread'

From “before the foundation of the world” until heaven and earth pass away, “the word of the Lord remains forever” (1 Peter 1:20, 25). This “living and abiding word of God” is the preaching of Christ Jesus, namely that God “raised him from the dead and gave him glory” (1 Peter 1:21, 23). By this living word, we “have been born again” to eternal life (1 Peter 1:23) and ransomed from our sinful and mortal life “with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18–19). This living word also calls us to repentance, to dying and rising in Holy Baptism “in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38). In this, we receive the Holy Spirit “for you and for your children and for all who are far off” (Acts 2:39). Through the preaching of His cross and resurrection, Jesus draws near to bring us “into his glory” (Luke 24:26). As He opens the Scriptures, He opens our minds to comprehend “the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27), and He brings us to know Him “in the breaking of the bread” (Luke 24:35).

Opening Hymn: “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” LSB Hymn 465

1. Now all the vault of Heav’n resounds In praise of love that still abounds,
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear,
Repeat their song of glory here, “Christ has triumphed, Christ has triumphed!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings,
“Christ hath triumphed! He is living!” Now still He comes to give us life,
And by His presence stills all strife. Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph, Grant grace sufficient for life’s day
That by our lives we truly say, “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Adoring praises now we bring And with the heavenly blessed sing,
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!” Be to the Father, and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God, All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, 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

Psalm 133

Behold, how good and pleasant it is

when brothers dwell in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron,

running down on the collar of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is

when brothers dwell in unity!

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.

Hymn of Praise: *“He is Arisen! Glorious Word!”* *TLH Hymn 189*

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav’n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan’s arrows broken lie, Destroyed hell’s direst weapon.
Oh, hear What cheer! Christ victorious Riseth glorious, Life He giveth—
He was dead, but see, he liveth!

The Salutation & The Collect for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 (ESV)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ...

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Gradual

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

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

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

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

C: **he has put all things under his feet.**

Hymn:

“Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb”

TLH Hymn 203

1. Morning breaks upon the tomb; Jesus scatters all its gloom.
Day of triumph through the skies; See the glorious Savior rise.
2. Ye who are of death afraid Triumph in the scattered shade.
Drive your anxious cares away; See the place where Jesus lay.
3. Christian, dry your flowing tears Chase your unbelieving fears;
Look on His deserted grave, Doubt no more His pow’r to save.

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-25 (ESV)

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

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. Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles ¹⁴from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: "Where Wilt Thou Go Since Night Draws Near" TLH Hymn 197

1. Where wilt Thou go since night draws near, O Jesus Christ, Thou Pilgrim dear?
Lord, make me happy, be my Guest, And in my heart, oh deign to rest.
2. Grant my request, O dearest Friend, For truly I the best intend;
Thou knowest that Thou ever art A welcome Guest unto my heart.
3. The day is now far spent and gone, The shades of night come quickly on;
Abide with me, Thou heav'nly Light, And do not leave me in this night.
4. Enlighten me that from the way That leads to heav'n I may not stray,
That I may never be misled, Though night of sin is round me spread.
5. And when I on my death-bed lie, Help me that I in peace may die.
Abide! I will not let Thee go. Thou wilt not leave me, Lord, I know.

The Sermon

"Stay with Us, Lord"

Hymn:

"Abide with Us, the Day is Waning"

TLH Hymn 194

1. "Abide with us, the day is waning;" Thus prayed the two while on the way.
We read that Thou, O Lord, remaining, Didst all their doubts and fears allay.
Incline Thine ear, Thou King of grace, When, praying thus, we seek Thy face.
2. At eventide, Thy Spirit sending, Help us, O Lord, our watch to keep,
In prayer devout, before Thee bending, Ere our eyelids close in sleep,
Confessing sin in deed and word With hope of mercy from the Lord.
3. Abide with us; with heav'nly gladness Illumine, Lord, our darkest day;
And when we weep in pain and sadness, Be Thou our Solace, Strength, and Stay.
Tell of Thy woe, Thy vict'ry won, When Thou didst pray: "Thy will be done."

4. Abide with us, O Savior tender, That bitter day when life shall end,
When to the grave we must surrender, And fear and pain our hearts shall rend.
The shield of faith do Thou bestow When trembling we must meet the foe.
5. When earthly help no more availeth, To sup with us Thou wilt be nigh;
Thou givest strength that never faileth, In Thee we grave and death defy.
While earth is fading from our sight, Our eyes behold the realms of light.

The Prayers of the Day

You have heard our pleas for mercy, O Lord, and given up Your Son to be our Savior. Hear us now as we come to You on behalf of ourselves and all people according to their needs.

Our hearts have burned in us, O Lord, as Your Word has been read and preached. Keep our faith from growing cold and grant us grace, that we may not waver in faith or succumb to temptation. Give to us and to our children receptive hearts, that we may hear and, hearing, believe and, believing, be steadfast in this faith and hope all our days. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have cleansed us, O Lord, with water and the Word in Baptism, and You have marked us as Your own people. Give to us grace, that we may live out this faith in holy lives, lifting up Your name in word and works for as long as we live. Guide us, that we may purify our souls by living in obedience to Your Word and in brotherly love for one another. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless Your Church, O Lord, that she may welcome the stranger in Christ's name and manifest the unity of the faith in the bonds of love. Bless our Synod president; our district president; our circuit visitor; and our pastor. Bless those training for church-work vocations. Bless each of us as we live out our baptismal vocation of worship, witness, prayer and service. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guard our nation, O Lord, that we may enjoy peace and security in the face of threat and danger. Bless our president; the Congress of the United States; our governor; and all state and local officials, that they may fulfill their offices faithfully. Bless the members of the armed forces who protect us, and teach the nations the ways of peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deliver us from all our afflictions, and grant us strength to bear all our burdens, O Lord. Hear us in particular for Amy, Jorge, Jana, Wasley, John, Frank, Reedy, those on our con-

tinued prayer list, and those whom we name in our hearts. According to Your gracious will, heal the sick, relieve those who suffer, comfort the grieving and give peace to the dying. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stay with us, O Lord, and be our strength in weakness and our hope in time of despair. Your gracious will once kept the saints in faith even unto death. Keep us, we pray, with them in Your faith and fear, that we may be found faithful when Christ comes again in His glory to bring to fulfillment all things, once and forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accept, O Lord, this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we bring for all Your goodness and generosity. And with our song of praise, accept our tithes and offerings, that Your Church may have the resources to proclaim Your Gospel and care for the poor and those in need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

These and whatever other things we need, O Lord, we pray You to grant us in the name of and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose death has made full atonement for our sin and whose resurrection has granted to us the promise of our own joyful resurrection to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. **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.

1. Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.
2. Jesus lives! To Him the throne High o’er heav’n and earth is given.
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful. Doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.
3. Jesus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.
Freely God doth aid dispense; This shall be my confidence.
4. Jesus lives! I know full well Naught from me His love shall sever;
Life nor death nor pow’rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be a sure Defense; This shall be my confidence.
5. Jesus lives! and now is death But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense, Jesus is my confidence!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Class TODAY:

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/5335235189>

Meeting ID: 533 523 5189)

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!!

Thank you to those who have utilized this option for your giving at Holy Cross!

If you have not tried it, 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.

As we are getting more familiar with the process, we wanted to make you aware of the fees associated with each transaction that are deducted from the contribution. They are as follows:

Credit Cards: 2.75% + .45 per transaction (except American Express, which charges 3.5%)

ACH Transactions (bank drafts): 1.00% + .45 per transaction

These fees are taken out of your contribution every time. For instance, a \$100.00 Visa credit card transaction incurs \$3.20 in fees with \$96.80 going to church as your offering. The \$96.80 is what will be reflected on your giving statement at the end of the year. If it works in your budget, you might consider doing a larger donation once a month, rather than weekly, as the fees are deducted each time.

If you are comfortable doing a bank draft, we would encourage you to do that to maximize your offering and minimize the fees.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions or concerns.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Staff Positions Available

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2020-2021 academic year! Interested individuals who teach in any subject areas may submit resumes to Faith Lutheran High School, PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960, call (979) 242-2889, or email them to kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com. If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!

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 would be 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.

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.



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*), Frank and Reedy Schwartz (*Ann Bamsch*)

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 April 16th. A private, family graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, at 11am. The family asks that if you wish to honor Hulda, please do so with a memorial to Holy Cross Lutheran Church General Fund, P.O. Box 69, Warda, TX 78960, Round Top Area Historical Society, Inc, P. O. Box 151, Round Top, Texas 78954, or to the charity of one’s choice.

The Lutheran Hour — May 3

"Rescue, Test, Rest"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God doesn't have to figure out something about you that He doesn't already know.

He doesn't have to figure out if He loves you or if He's committed to you or if you're worth it. God's not testing you to figure something out about you He didn't already know. He's testing you so that you can figure out something about Him that you didn't know, so that you can figure out that you can trust Him."

(Exodus 16)