

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

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Way, the Truth and the Life

The risen Lord Jesus alone is *“the way, and the truth, and the life,”* and we come *“to the Father”* only through Him (John 14:6). God is thus *“glorified in the Son,”* and those who believe in Him will do the works of Christ because He goes to the Father for us (John 14:12–14). Stephen, *“a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 6:5) and *“doing great wonders and signs among the people”* (Acts 6:8), did the works of Christ. When he was falsely accused and put to death, he *“gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God”* (Acts 7:55). Fixing his hope there, he commended his spirit to the Lord Jesus and prayed for his murderers. In the same way, all the baptized are called to follow the example of Christ Jesus by faith. Though He was *“rejected by men”* in the sight of God, He is *“chosen and precious”* (1 Peter 2:4). He is the chief cornerstone of the Father’s *“spiritual house,”* and we are built upon Him as *“living stones”* (1 Peter 2:5).

PreService Music: “Church of God, Elect and Glorious” LSB Hymn 646

Opening Hymn: “Like the Golden Sun Ascending” TLH Hymn 207

1. Like the golden sun ascending, Breaking through the gloom of night,
On the earth his glory spending So that darkness takes to flight,
Thus my Jesus from the grave And death's dismal, dreadful cave
Rose triumphant Easter morning At the early purple dawning.
2. Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious! Thanks to Thee, O Lord of life!
Death hath now no power o'er us, Thou hast conquered in the strife.
Thanks because Thou didst arise And hast opened Paradise!
None can fully sing the glory Of the resurrection story.
3. Though I be by sin o'ertaken, Though I lie in helplessness,
Though I be by friends forsaken And must suffer sore distress,
Though I be despised, contemned, And by all the world condemned,
Though the dark grave yawn before me, Yet the light of hope shines o'er me.
4. Thou hast died for my transgression, All my sins on Thee were laid;
Thou hast won for me salvation, On the cross my debt was paid.
From the grave I shall arise And shall meet Thee in the skies.
Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.

5. Grant me grace, O blessed Savior, And Thy Holy Spirit send
That my walk and my behavior May be pleasing to the end;
That I may not fall again Into death's grim pit and pain,
Whence by grace Thou hast retrieved me And from which Thou hast relieved me.

6. For the joy Thy advent gave me, For Thy holy, precious Word;
For Thy baptism which doth save me, For Thy blest Communion board;
For Thy death, the bitter scorn, For Thy resurrection morn,
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, And in heav'n I shall behold Thee.

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 30:1-5 antiphon: Psalm 149:1

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!
I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

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:

“The Church’s One Foundation”

TLH Hymn 473

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.
2. Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.
3. The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord, to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
tho' there be those that hate her False sons within her pale,
Against the foe and traitor She ever shall prevail.

4. Though with a scornful wonder, Men see her sore 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.

The Salutation & The Collect for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: 🎵 **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: 🎵 **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a; 51-60 (ESV)

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . ⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do

has become the cornerstone,”⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse

Romans 6:9; John 14:23

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

C: Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14 (ESV)

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

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord..

C:  Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Apostle's Creed

Page 12

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

Sermon Hymn: *“Thou Art the Way; to Thee Alone”* *TLH Hymn 355*

1. Thou art the Way: to thee alone From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek, Must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.
2. Thou art the Truth; Thy Word alone True wisdom can impart;
Thou only canst inform the mind, And purify the heart.
3. Thou art the Life; the rending tomb proclaims Thy conquering arm;
And those who put their trust in Thee Nor death nor hell shall harm.
4. Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: Grant us that Way to know,
That Truth to keep, that Life to win, Whose joys eternal flow.

The Sermon

“The Way to the Father!”

Hymn: *“Now Thank We All Our God”* *TLH Hymn 36*

1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God Thro' all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us,
To keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills In this world in the next!

3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

The Prayers of the Day

As newborn infants who long for the pure spiritual milk, so let us come before the Lord seeking His mercy with confidence that His grace will be sufficient for all our needs.

Almighty Father, everlasting God, Your Son has revealed You to us as a merciful Lord. Give to us Your Holy Spirit, that we may believe in Him whom You have sent and do the greater works He has told us we will do in His name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You have promised to build up Your Church to be a holy priesthood, that Your people might offer the spiritual sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving acceptable to You. Bless Your Church and bring all congregations back together again. Bless all pastors who proclaim Christ to us. Bless all church workers and those preparing for full-time church vocations, that Your Church may be supplied with faithful leaders and servants of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, Your power brought all things into being and still You preserve what You have made. Bless our president, the Congress of these United States, our governor, and all elected and appointed civil servants so that they may honor You and Your purpose, establishing order and justice, encouraging virtue and protecting all life. Give wisdom and moderation to them in their leadership for the well-being of the nation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O merciful Father, You have compassion upon the sick and those in need and have promised not to ignore them in their afflictions. Turn back the pandemic across the globe, and give us relief. Bless the sick with healing, those who suffer with strength and patience, and the dying with peace. Hear us on behalf of those who have requested our prayers especially Brenda, Amy, Jorge, Robert, Jana, Wesley, John, Frank, Reedy, those in our hearts and those on our continued prayer list. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, You have established the home and blessed those who show us Your love. Bless all mothers and the children in their care. Bless all families and make their homes places of blessing and love, where Your Word is spoken, forgiveness reigns and love is dis-

played. Give us good examples to inspire youth to all that is good and pure, and to seek after these things. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You have given us the wisdom of faith that through the Spirit we might know Your Son to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all those who teach and all who learn, that the goal of our knowledge may be to know Christ and to make Him known. Do not let Your Word be bound, but let it have free course among us. Preserve those in isolation from idleness, and instead let our minds be renewed in Scripture and prayer. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Father, You are not aloof from the needs of this body and life, and You have called us to love our neighbor in need and give aid to the poor. Give us courage and faith, that we may not fear sharing the resources You have supplied with those who live in want, especially the widow, the orphan and the unemployed. Let love be perfected among us to drive out selfish fears. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Father of an eternal mercy, You have raised up witnesses in every age and blessed us with those who endured suffering and even death in faithfulness to Christ. We give You thanks for these faithful saints and martyrs, and we pray You to make us strong when we face the day of test, that at length we may be brought with them into the joy of Your presence and the glory of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise You, God, for Your goodness in hearing the prayers of Your people and granting us confidence to approach Your throne of mercy. Hear us now in the name of and for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, both now and forevermore. **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: “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise” TLH Hymn 47

1. Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
And lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.
2. Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day;
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.
3. Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.
4. Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our Balm in sorrow, and our Stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Class TODAY:

Through the use of an application called Zoom, we are 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/5335235189> Meeting ID: 5335235189

Reopening: Plans are tentatively being made for reopening on Sunday, May 24th. A letter will be going out to all the members this week outlining the plans currently being made. This same letter will also be available on our Facebook page and website. Please help us spread the word to your family and friends. Please note, these plans are tentative as we await the outcome of reopening businesses, restaurants, etc. in the next couple weeks.

In the meantime, Pastor Beck will continue to post services, devotions, hymns, etc. online. 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 - Small gatherings of families are able, by appointment, to receive the Lord's Supper. Pastor is using every caution available to limit contact between individuals. Please call or text Pastor Beck at 966-8654 to make arrangements.

VBS: The difficult decision has been made to cancel VBS this year. There is a chance that we could have some sort of an event toward the end of the summer that might be fun for families and kids activities, but it'll all depend on how re-opened everything is by late July.

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer: Every week, Pastor Beck is putting together a sheet for 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 are 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 available!!

Thank you to those who have utilized this option for your giving at Holy Cross! It has been going smoothly. 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.

Online Giving con't:

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

Brenda Woelfel, home recovering from back surgery,

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 all church's as they make plans to resume services in the coming weeks

Thank you to our organists and the singers who have been helping prepare our worship service each week!

The Lutheran Hour — May 17

"Words Matter"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Words matter. People matter. You matter to God, and He will stop at nothing to get your attention. (Exodus 19)