

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN

507-896-3102

Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship with Holy Communion/Noisy Offering/FB

Sunday April 6, 2025



- Monday:** 2:00 Ruth Circle
Tuesday: 6:00 Executive Council Mtg.
Wednesday: 5:30 Lenten Soup Supper
6:30 Lenten Worship Service
Thursday: 6:30 Thrivent Lifetime Gift with Jeff Metz
Friday: Pastor's Day Off
Saturday: 9:00 WELCA Spring and Easter Sale
Sunday: 9:30 Palm Sunday Worship Service w/Holy Communion/FB
10:30 – 11:15 First Communion Class
10:30 Sunday School/Coffee Hr./Stone Church Cemetery Mtg.

Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.

Prelude

Ringling of the Church Bell

Announcements

Gathering Song: Hymn #522 “As We Gather at Your Table”

1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.

Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

Prayer of the Day:

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Reading: 2 Philippians 3:4b-14

¹⁶ [Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

³ The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵ Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Gospel Acclamation

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel: John 12:1-8

P: The holy gospel according to John. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day: Hymn #685 “Take My Life, That I May Be” vs 1,2,3 & 6

1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, if all for thee.

Apostle’s Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.**

Prayers of Intercession:

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Noisy Offering

Offering Collection

Offertory “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of
life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Words of Institution

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,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: The Table is set. Who is Welcome?

Congregation Response: **All are welcome.**

The Distribution *(Please sign the pew pad.)*

Communion Hymns: 324, 595, 335, 629

Sending Song: ELW #597 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

(Refrain)

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;

in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor
holds within the veil.

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. **R**

4 When he shall come with trumpet
sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! **R**

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

Postlude

Thank You for helping with the service today:

Organist: Shelley Jerviss

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Acolytes: Hayden Stoker, Kierah

Stuttgen

Reader: Sheri Johnson

Communion: Larry Jerviss, Jessica

Brand, Sandy Erickson

Usher: Delaney Erickson, Alivia

Halvorson, Duane Hegland

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thursday, April 10, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Jeff Metz Financial Advisor invites you to a free educational event. With guest speaker, Shelly Halverson.

Saturday April 12, 9 am to 12 pm Cross of Christ WELCA Spring and Easter Sale.

*Cakes, cookies, bars, and breads*Spring and Easter décor*

NEW THIS YEAR: Coffee and Tea Bar (freshly brewed coffee with lots of add-ins to customize your drink). Sweet Treats to go along with your drink will also be for sale

You are invited to donate baked goods and Spring and Easter décor.

Please call the church office to verify drop offs for your convenience.

Sunday April 20th Easter Sunday Worship 7:00 & 9:30. Easter Breakfast served between services. Free will Offering.

Egg donation may be brought to the church Monday-Thursday from 9-3

Sunday April 27th Graduation Recognition. Join us as the Seniors receive their Quilts during 9:30 Worship followed by cake during coffee hour to celebrate.