

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN

507-896-3102

Third Sunday in Lent Worship with Holy Communion/Baptism/FB
Sunday March 23, 2025



Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday: 5:30 Lenten Soup Supper
6:30 Lenten Worship Service

Thursday:

Friday: Pastor's Day Off

Saturday:

Sunday: 9:30 Worship Service w/Holy Communion/FB
10:30 – 11:15 First Communion Class
10:30 Sunday School/Coffee Hour

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 #756 “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless
wave, who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid the storm didst sleep:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
and bid its angry tumult cease,
and give, for wild confusion, peace:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
all trav'lers guard in danger's hour
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad hymns and praise from land and
sea.

Prayer of the Day:

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the

destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 63:1-8

- ¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you,
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- ² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- ³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
- ⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**
- ⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- ⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- ⁷ For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- ⁸ **My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

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: Luke 13:1-9

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

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’

⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'" P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Dana Jackson

Hymn of the Day: Hymn #595 "Jesus Loves Me!"

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. **R**

(Refrain)

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.**

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. **R**

The Holy Baptism of Jokeem Fredrick Yocum

God gives us a new birth into a living home through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ.

Parents and sponsors who do you present to be baptized?

We present Jokeem Fredrick to be baptized.

Parent(s) called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? **I do.**

You are entrusted with the responsibilities of bringing your child to worship, teaching the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. To teach your child how to pray, to read the scriptures, to trust God and to care for others through word and deed. Do you promise to help your child to grow in the Christian faith and life? **I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit? **I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support **Jokeem Fredrick** and pray for him in his life in Christ? **We do.**

Parent(s) and Sponsors I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the forces that defy God, the devil, the powers of this world that rebel against God and the ways of sin?

I renounce them.

Along with the congregation let us confess our faith.

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.**

Baptism

Jokeem Fredrick, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Congregation: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Sign of the Cross

Jokeem Fredrick, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Candle

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Congregational Welcome

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ.

Gift of Quilt

Prayers of Intercession:

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

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: 335, 773, 324

Sending Song: ELW #618 “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank You for helping with the service today:

Organist: Gayle Smith

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Acolytes: Megan Ulmen, Anna Loomis

Reader: Ron Evenson

Communion: Jenelle Lemke, Krin

Abraham, Twyla Thorson

Usher: Easton Kildahl, Toni Luedtke,

Duane Hegland

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Baptized during worship today is Jokeem Fredrick Yocum, son of Emma Joe Yocum. Jokeem's Godfather is Dylan Yocum and Godmother is Jordyn Lee.

DUE TODAY Easter Flower Order Form Flowers can be purchased in Memory or Honor of loved one for Sunday Easter Service. If you are ordering through the church the order forms are available in the narthex and due by **Sunday March 23rd**.

Attention Thrivent members, you have until March 31 to designate your Choice Dollars for 2024. For assistance, please contact your Thrivent agent or Jeff Metz (Jeff @ 507-450-4317) or email jeff.metz@thrivent.com

Sunday, April 6, from 10:40 to 11:15 a.m., Tharan Leopold with the ELCA Foundation will be at Cross of Christ to share a forum on legacy gifts.

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. (see Insert)

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.