

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH–ELCA
1918 Garfield St., Beatrice NE 68310-2633 + 402-228-3172
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“Inspiring People to Serve Christ”

CHRIST THE KING

9:00 a.m., Sunday, November 22, 2020

Welcome to Worship!

We are thankful that you are joining others in praise and thanksgiving today, and pray that in worship, you encounter a God of grace and mercy.

In an earnest attempt to provide a safe worship experience for God’s children the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Council and Pastor Kathee have prepared these guidelines for those wishing to attend indoor service:

- Masks will be required.
- Social Distancing – Stay at least 6’ from others not in your family.
- Ushers will direct you in and out of the sanctuary to designated pews.
- No shaking hands.
- No singing...but there will be music.
- At this time there will be no Fellowship or Adult Education following worship.
- If you are sick, please stay home.
- Please feel free to ask an usher, greeter or other worshiper if you need assistance.
- If you are unable to hear during worship, Assistive Listening Devices are available as you enter the sanctuary. They may be used with or without hearing aids. Please contact an usher to assist.
- In the spirit of worship, please silence cell phones.
- Diaper changing station is located in the Family Bathroom in the hallway.
- We welcome children in worship! They are a blessing to the congregation. If time is needed to step out of the sanctuary with little ones, the conference room is available for parents to sit with their children and watch the service.

Holy Communion

Jesus is the host of this meal; it is he who invites us to the table and we exclude none whom Jesus himself would welcome. Please see communion instructions in the announcements.

SUNDAY WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE IN OUR PARKING LOT VIA 90.9 FM AND FACEBOOK LIVE FOR THOSE WHO ARE VULNERABLE OR NOT FEELING WELL.

(*—please stand as you are able)

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk: Matt 25

Angie Vogel

Call to Worship – Ringing of the Church Bell

GATHERING

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: "Thine the Amen" ELW 826, vv. 1-2

(Words printed for meditation/reflection only. No singing please.)

1. Thine the amen, Thine the praise, Alleluias angels raise.

Thine the everlasting head. Thine the breaking of the bread.

Thine the glory, Thine the story, Thine the harvest, then the cup. Thine the vineyard, then the cup is lifted up, lifted up.

2. Thine the life eternally, Thine the promise let there be. Thine the vision. Thine the tree, all the earth on bended knee. Gone the nailing, gone the railing, Gone the pleading, gone the cry. Gone the sighing, gone the dying, what was loss lifted high.

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*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray,

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Kathee Forrest

*Hymn of the Day: "Thine the Amen" #826 ELW, vv. 3-4

(Words printed for meditation/reflection only – no singing.)

3. Thine the truly, Thine the yes, Thine the table we the guest. Thine the mercy all from Thee, Thine the glory yet to be. Then the ringing and the singing, Then the end of all the war. Thine the living. Thine the loving, evermore, evermore.

4. Thine the kingdom, Thine the prize, Thine the wonder full surprise. Thine the banquet, then the praise, Then the justice of Thy ways. Thine the glory, Thine the story, Then the welcome to the least. Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast, at Thy feast.

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*Nicene Creed

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

*Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(In this time of social distancing, we ask that you stay in your seat and share Christ's peace with nods, waves or peace sign.)

MEAL

Offering Music

(We contemplate our response to all that God has given us. Offering is received in plates at the back of the sanctuary on your way out.)

*Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*Words of Institution

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: 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.

*Invitation to Communion:

P: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Distribution (continuous)

Communion Hymn: "Thine the Amen" #826 ELW, v. 5

5. Thine the glory in the night, No more dying only light. Thine the river, Thine the tree, Then the Lamb eternally. Then the holy, holy, holy Celebration jubilee. Thine the splendor, Thine the brightness, only Thee, only Thee.

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***Table Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song: "Lift High the Cross" #660 ELW, vv. 1,4**

(Words printed for meditation/reflection only – no singing.)

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

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WORSHIP MINISTRY	
Ministers.....	Members of the Congregation
Pastor.....	Kathee Forrest
	Home: 402-230-3250; Cell: 402-239-9798
Organists.....	Nadine Hibbert, Denise Lenner
Reader.....	Rebecca Behrends
Ushers.....	Bill & Rebecca Behrends

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH! *We are delighted to have you with us in worship this weekend. Whether you come each week or came today for the first time, you are a valuable member of God's family and we're glad you're here!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Ainsley Karlin (Nov. 22), RaeLynn Scott (Nov. 23), Deb Wells (Nov. 25), Caleb Jobman (Nov. 28).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Wayne & Rita Schuster (11-22-85), Richard & Berlita Grell (11-24-12).

WE WILL BE RECEIVING COMMUNION this weekend with both bread and wine. It is a new way so here are the steps:

1. Pick up a cup with wafer and lid as you enter.
2. During distribution, ushers will direct you to the altar.
3. Please keep 6' distance between family units.
4. When you are in front of Pastor, please remove the lid of your cup and take the communion wafer out to receive the body of Christ.
5. Then place the cup on the table to be filled as you receive the blood of Christ. We will be pouring the wine into the cup.
6. Please dispose of your cup in the waste baskets as you return to your seats.

MATT 25 SCHOLARSHIP: As we hear once again the words of Matthew 25, it brings to mind the Holy Cross Matt 25 scholarship. Today is an opportunity to give to the scholarship fund for the 2021 year. AND all donations of \$5 or more receive a free thank you gift this Christ the King weekend. Simply go through the Fellowship Hall on your way out and make a donation and pick up a thank-you gift! With gratitude for the support we have received over the years, Angie Vogel and the Matt 25 Scholarship Team.

FAITHBUILDERS: To allow our families and teachers to attend family Thanksgiving gatherings, we will NOT be having Sunday School on Sunday, November 29th. Last day of Sunday School for 2020 will be December 13th - via Zoom.

ADDRESS DIRECTORY: We are working on an updated Address Directory for our members. **If you have changed your address, telephone number or email address in the last year, please email Sandy your correct information at smahleris@gmail.com or call the church office 402-228-3172.**

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE - Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m.

We invite you to join us as we give thanks to God for all of his gifts—especially the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ. Thanksgiving Eve offerings and coming Midweek Advent worship offerings will be divided equally between the Community Food Pantry and the Bethany Walker Seminarian Fund to be paid directly to Luther Seminary.

POINSETTIAS: Poinsettias for this year are being ordered. If you wish to order one in memory or honor of someone, please call the church office at 402-228-3172 or email Sandy at smahleris@gmail.com. Blossom Khardt will deliver them at a cost of \$15.00.
DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS DECEMBER 1.

GIVING INFORMATION

As you bring your offerings and tithes for the ministry of Christ's Church at Holy Cross Lutheran, there are several ways to give: There are offering plates located at the back of church for you to drop your offering envelope in after worship. You can mail them to the church at Holy Cross Lutheran, 1918 Garfield St., Beatrice, NE 68310. You can drop them in the mail slot on the southeast side of the building. Or you can give electronically by using the red "GIVING" link on the church website www.holycrossbeatrice.com or using the GivePlus by Vanco app on your smart devices.

PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEMINARIAN BETHANY

WALKER: Bethany Walker, former member of Holy Cross and seminarian at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, checked in with Pastor Kathee about her journey to Ordination. Bethany is scheduled for her approval interview with the candidacy committee on December 1st. Then she will take three more classes and plans on graduation May 2021 with ordination that summer. Bethany asks that we pray for her, specifically prayers that she maintains her focus and call during this time. If you are able to give toward this last semester of Bethany's studies at Luther, you may give a gift marked "Bethany Walker".

HANGING OF THE GREENS – Next Sunday, November 29

We plan to put up the garland in the sanctuary before November 29. The stable and the outdoor nativity scene will also be put in place when the weather allows before November 29. Please contact Tom Karlin if you can help with the Sanctuary garland or the nativity scenes outside.

COMING UP:

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23... Midweek Advent Worship, 7:00-7:30 p.m.
Dec. 24.... Christmas Eve: 5:00 p.m. Candlelight service
w/pre-recorded Faithbuilder's Christmas Program
and 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
Dec. 25.... Christmas Day Worship, 10:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 22, 2020 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



God's justice cares for the weak and lost.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and goats
Monday	Ezekiel 34:11-24	God, the true shepherd
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Wed	Psalms 100	All lands called to praise God
Thursday	Isaiah 1:16-20	Justice is needed
Friday	Amos 5:10-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalms 95:1-7a	Worship and obey the Lord
Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	When the Son of Man appears

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. **Ezekiel 34:16 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 95:7a)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, to you we make a joyful noise for all that you do, including your gift of this food for us today. Amen. (Psalm 95:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of power and might bless you with joy and peace.

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NOVEMBER 22, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK
When the Poor Ones



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If you had all the power you could want, what would you want to do?
- What is wrong with the religious leaders in the Bible using their power for themselves?
- Why is it good news to know that God cares for the poor, the sick, and the hungry?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:31-46.

The God of the Bible is the God of justice but not just any kind of justice. God's justice recognizes the unfairness of power that abuses the weak. In Ezekiel 34 God has had enough of Judah's unjust shepherds, specifically, the kings who have not taken care of God's sheep.

Therefore, God declares the sheep that are lost, strayed, injured, and weak will be cared for by God's power and the fat and the strong sheep—supposedly those well off at the expense of the weak—will be destroyed (v. 16). That is the divine judgment Jesus presents in the parable of the sheep and the goats. God's will—Jesus' will, as seen in the Son of Man in the parable—is to provide for the needs of the hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, or sick. The message is so strong that when anyone has cared for these, they have cared for the Son of Man. The Gospel of Matthew does not shy away from judgment that distinguishes the authentic from the inauthentic life of those who follow Jesus. Matthew speaks against those who abuse their powers, whether religious, social, political, or economic. This final Sunday in the church year recognizes that all evil abuses will end one day and only God's compassion will survive through Christ, the true ruler of all things. How do you live as though Jesus, the Son of Man is with you as you show care and help others in need?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see you in our neighbors, especially those in need of care through Jesus Christ, the one who is above all rule and authority. Amen.**

SERVICE

Whether you live in an urban or rural setting, there are many in need. Donations of time and money are appreciated by those in need and the organizations that help them. Think about how you can help support these individuals or organizations.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Psalm 95:1-7a and circle or say the action words like "sing," "make a joyful noise," "bow down," and "kneel." Reread the psalm out loud and act out the parts you highlighted.

Afterward, close with this blessing: **May the Lord God rejoice at the sound of your joyful noise and songs of praise.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org