

# **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**Divine Service Four**

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 13, 2020**





## **The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

### **September 13, 2020**

### **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**(Missouri Synod)**

**9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd.**

**Highlands Ranch, CO 80129**

Sunday Worship Services.....8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Classes and Sunday School.....9:25 a.m.  
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office.....303-683-1300  
Kristen Foss, Director, Early Learning Center.....303-683-1311  
Fax..... 303-470-0165

***Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:  
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!***

### **Prayer for Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, remind us that by nature every human heart is shrouded in darkness. None of us can by his own reason or strength believe in You who is the only true light. But what we cannot do on our own, the Holy Spirit can work in us through the Gospel. He sends its beams of light into our dark, perverted hearts, works faith in You, the true light, and awakens in us the desire to live as children of light who will one day enjoy the eternal light in Your heavenly mansions. Grant that we trust that whoever in faith comes to You, the true light, can no longer love darkness and the works of darkness; he must be engaged in works that reflect Your light. We pray in Your name, O precious light. Amen.



# Confession and Absolution

## 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and  
2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could  
3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had  
4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -  
5 Yet as the Law must be ful - filled Or we must die de -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They  
ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For  
giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And  
ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our  
spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus  
man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those  
by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a  
guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's  
hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the  
pure de - sires The spir - it of the  
mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred  
poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our  
Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.  
Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.  
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.  
guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.  
ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.

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*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## Exhortation

*Psalms 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13*

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

## Confession of Sins

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

## Absolution

*[John 20:19–23]*

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**



## Service of the Word

### Introit

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!  
I have fled to you for refuge!

**Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

Enter not into judgment with your servant,  
for no one living is righteous before you.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!  
I have fled to you for refuge!

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*



## Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15–21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Gradual

## 553 O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire

1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, Cre -  
2 How vast Your mer - cy to ac - cept The  
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, The  
4 O let Your might - y love pre - vail To

a - tion's might - y Lord, Re - deem - er of the  
bur - den of our sin And bow Your head in  
ran - som has been paid; You now as - cend the  
purge us of our pride That we may stand be -

fall - en world, By ho - ly love out - poured:  
cru - el death To make us clean with - in.  
Fa - ther's throne In robes of light ar - rayed.  
fore Your throne By mer - cy pu - ri - fied.

5. Christ Jesus, be our present joy,  
Our future great reward;  
Our only glory, may it be  
To glory in the Lord!
6. All praise to You, ascended Lord;  
All glory ever be  
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Through all eternity!

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## Epistle: Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



*John 20:31*





## Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21–35

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**





## Apostles' Creed

**☒ 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 Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.**


**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life  $\text{✝}$  everlasting. Amen.**

*Sit*

## 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it

blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of

to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

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## Sermon

### "Forgiven"

Text: Genesis 50:15-21

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

*After each portion of the prayer:*

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

*Sit*

## Offertory

### 843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"  
 2 How can Your par - don reach and bless  
 3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals  
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls

You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can  
 The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and  
 The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are  
 And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in

grant us grace To live the words we say.  
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 owed to us, How great our debt to You!  
 bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.



## Offering

*There is an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit your offerings as you leave.*

*Stand*

## Lord's Prayer

**G** 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.

## Closing Collect

**A** Let us pray.  
Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**G** Amen.

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*

**A** Let us bless the Lord.  
**G** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made And brought to us sal-  
7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see Your Word can - not be  
8 The Law re - veals the guilt of sin And makes us con - science-  
9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone And rests in Him un-  
△ 10 All bless - ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise To Fa - ther, Son, and  
va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And  
bro - ken; Your call rings out, "Come un - to Me!" No  
strick - en; But then the Gos - pel en - ters in The  
ceas - ing; And by its fruits true faith is known, With  
Spir - it, The God who saved us by His grace; All  
build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear  
false - hood have You spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to Your  
sin - ful soul to quick - en. Come to the cross, trust  
love and hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can  
glo - ry to His mer - it. O tri - une God in  
Lord, I plead, Your death is now my  
pre - cious name, My faith can - not be  
Christ, and live; The Law no peace can  
jus - ti - fy; Works serve our neigh - bor  
heav'n a - bove, You have re - vealed Your  
life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.  
put to shame, And I shall nev - er per - ish.  
ev - er give, No com - fort and no bless - ing.  
and sup - ply The proof that faith is liv - ing.  
sav - ing love; Your bless - ed name we hal - low.

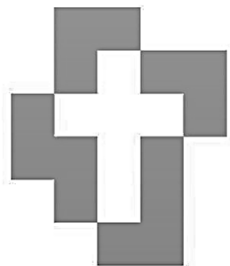
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## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## ***Soli Deo Gloria!***

***(To God alone be the glory.)***

### **“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life September 13, 2020**

“When discipline and correction are called for in the Christian family, it is always administered in love, given for the express purpose of benefitting the family as a whole—the household as a whole. By this the family is strengthened to better witness to the life they share by faith in Jesus. For by the grace of God and in the power of His Holy Spirit, the Christian family at work, worship, prayer, or play bears witness to the faith that is in them through their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

*Ron Schlegel, The Lutheran Laymen*

*A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

### **Bible Study**



Find Pastor Skelton's Bible Study based on First Samuel posted on [facebook.com/holycrosshighlandsranch](https://facebook.com/holycrosshighlandsranch) and click on videos to see the Bible Study and worship services.



The Altar Guild is now accepting flower donations beginning September 6. If you are interested in donating flowers to adorn the chancel, please sign up on the flower calendar located on the bulletin board in the narthex. The price for the floral arrangement is \$30. Please leave a check or cash in an envelope marked as “flowers” in the offering plate. Orders need to be placed by the previous Sunday.

The Altar Guild is also looking for volunteers to assist with duties during the 10:30 service. Please contact Angie Otto at 303-798-9799 if you are able to help out.

**Petitions and Prayers:** In its simplest form, prayer is “calling upon the name of the Lord.”



### **Health concerns:**

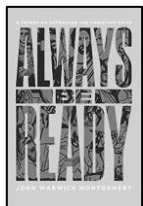
*Lord Jesus, great is Your love and great is Your mercy. Grant those who are sick hearts that trust in Your promise never to leave them nor forsake them. Whether or not removing their suffering and restoring their health is Your will for their lives now, keep them in Your grace and strengthen their faith. Amen.*

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Theresa Kingham – cancer
- Kevin Koessel (Karlee Shavlik's brother) – cancer
- Julie Ann Zamora – multiple health issues

### **Prayer of intercession:**

*\*Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for all of the blessings You continue to pour out on our nation and its people despite our many transgressions against Your will. Grant Your wisdom to the leaders of our country that they will make just and honorable decisions and will work for the good of all the people they serve. May we know the peace of Your Son Jesus so that in our times of tribulation our hearts will be cheerful. We pray in the name of the One who has overcome the world as He told us in John 16:33: "...These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." Amen.*



Christian 'apologetics' doesn't apologize for anything. Rather, it is the art of defending our Christian beliefs and faith before an increasingly hostile society. 'Always Be Ready' is a new book by John Montgomery that was written to help us do just that. Our **Men's Study Group at Holy Cross** will read and discuss this text beginning shortly after Labor Day. We **meet every other Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. beginning on September 12.** It's a great opportunity to get to know each other in the context of topics that proclaim God's grace and often challenge us as Christians today. For more information, please contact Terry Mitchell at 303-875-2942 or Dave Weiss at 303-798-6248 or else just show up for our next class that's presently scheduled for **9/26/20.**



***Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.***

***Matthew 6:12***

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**Check out**

***The Lutheran Hour***

**Sunday mornings at**

**6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio**

**or**

**go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) and click on**

**"Listen Now" anytime.**

## **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**



Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook.

Check us out and Like us at

[facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch](https://facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch).



**If you haven't heard  
from GOD lately,  
try sending some knee mail!**