

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Divine Service Four

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021



[Peter said]: Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”

Acts 10:34-35



The Sixth Sunday in Easter

May 9, 2021

8:00 and 10:30 AM

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 the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Dearest Jesus, as we anticipate the end of the Season of Easter, keep our thoughts turned to You so that we reflect on Your blessings:

Your incarnation when You appeared in human flesh to be our Savior;

Your life here on earth as our Brother. You deigned to come here to live in lowliness even though You created heaven and earth;

Your death wherein You came here as one of us to lay down Your life as a ransom for sinners;

Your resurrection from the dead for it proves that You are God's Son and seals Your sacrifice as the full payment for our sins;

Your promise to us in John 14:6: "No one comes to the Father except through Me." Your ascension to the right hand of our heavenly Father assures us that one day we too shall be in heaven in the presence of our Father.

We pray this for Your sake. You redeemed us that we might be justified by grace. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and

heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy

hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in

bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our

Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Tune and text: Public domain

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

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

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
G **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
G **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

- G** **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.
G **Amen.**





Service of the Word

Introit



Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*
and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.

Shout for joy to God, | all the earth;*
sing the glory of his name; give to him | glorious praise!

Bless our God, O | peoples;*,
let the sound of his | praise be heard,

who has kept our soul among the | living*
and has not let our | feet slip.

Blessèd | be God,*,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast | love from me!

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

Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*,
and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.



Kyrie

Mark 10:47



■ 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, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading: Acts 10:34–48

Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he

sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual



Christ has risen | from the dead.*

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.**



Epistle: 1 John 5:1–8

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



John 20:31



Holy Gospel: John 15:9–17

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



Apostles' Creed

C 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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, With ex-ul-ta-tion
2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark-ly
3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer-it
4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be-fore the world's foun-
5 God said to His be-lov-ed Son: "It's time to have com-
spring-ing, And with u-nit-ed heart and voice And ho-ly
o'er me. Sin was my tor-ment night and day; In sin my
gain-ing; Free will a-gainst God's judg-ment fought, Dead to all
da-tion, And mind-ful of His mer-cies great, He planned for
pas-sion. Then go, bright jew-el of My crown, And bring to
rap-ture sing-ing, Pro-claim the won-ders God has done, How
moth-er bore me. But dai-ly deep-er still I fell; My
good re-main-ing. My fears in-creased till sheer de-spair Left
my sal-va-tion. He turned to me a fa-ther's heart; He
all sal-va-tion. From sin and sor-row set them free; Slay
His right arm the vic-t'ry won. What price our ran-som cost Him!
life be-came a liv-ing hell, So firm-ly sin pos-sessed me.
on-ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf-fered.
did not choose the eas-y part But gave His dear-est trea-sure.
bit-ter death for them that they May live with You for-ev-er."

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

"God's Acceptance"

Text: Acts 10:34-48



556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



6 The Son o - beyed His Fa - ther's will, Was born of vir - gin
 7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and
 8 "Though he will shed My pre - cious blood, Me of My life be -
 9 "Now to My Fa - ther I de - part, From earth to heav'n as -
 10 "What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and



moth - er; And God's good plea - sure to ful - fill, He came to
 cas - tle. Your ran - som I My - self will be; For you I
 reav - ing, All this I suf - fer for your good; Be stead - fast
 cend - ing, And, heav'n - ly wis - dom to im - part, The Ho - ly
 teach - ing; So shall the king - dom's work be wrought And hon - ored



be my broth - er. His roy - al pow'r dis - guised He bore; A
 strive and wres - tle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And
 and be - liev - ing. Life will from death the vic - t'ry win; My
 Spir - it send - ing; In trou - ble He will com - fort you And
 in your preach - ing. But watch lest foes with base al - loy The



ser - vant's form, like mine, He wore To lead the dev - il cap - tive.
 where I am you may re - main; The foe shall not di - vide us.
 in - no - cence shall bear your sin, And you are blest for - ev - er.
 teach you al - ways to be true And in - to truth shall guide you.
 heav'n - ly trea - sure should de - stroy; This fi - nal word I leave you."

Text and tune: Public domain



Offering

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

Stand

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

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

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

P Lord Jesus Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the preaching of Your Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You, that day by day we may be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in Your grace. Give us strength to fight the good fight and by faith to overcome all the temptations of Satan, the flesh, and the world so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P 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.

G Amen.

829 Christ the Eternal Lord



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
 2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
 3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,
 4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,
 5 Christ the as - cend - ed King Ex - alt - ed high a - bove,



Whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured On all who name Your name;
 Whose time - less teach - ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip - ture's page;
 And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;
 Our Morn - ing Star in splen - dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
 Whose praise un - end - ing a - ges sing, Whom yet un - seen we love;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
 Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
 In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,
 That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,
 When mor - tal life is past Your voice from heav - en's throne



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
 With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
 That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.
 Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour - ney ends.
 Shall call Your chil - dren home at last To know as we are known.

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Soli Deo Gloria!
(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Steve White

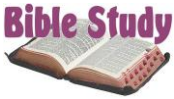
10:30 a.m. – Gary Bartels



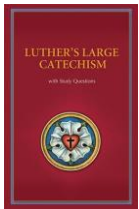
Please join us this Thursday evening at 7 p.m. for our Communion Worship Service celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord.



While standing during various parts of the Divine Service shows respect and honor given to our Lord and Savior during worship, it is not a requirement. If at any time you feel the need to take a seat, please feel free to do so.



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



Holy Cross Men's Bible Study is exploring Luther's Large Catechism. They meet every other Saturday. You are welcome to join them at their next meeting on Saturday, May 22 at 8 a.m.



Check out the Thank You note from Mary at Bethesda posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.

Philippians 1:2-3

Sharing Christ Confidently

Are you...

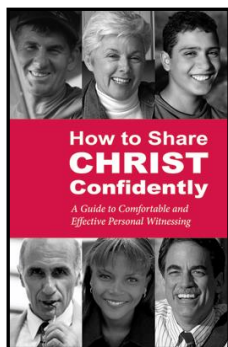
anxious about sharing your faith?

afraid you aren't equipped to share your faith?

worried you might be rejected or ridiculed?

You're not alone!

We asked what your first thought that came to mind was when you heard the word "witness". The response was varied and much as you might expect. What makes this task seem so intimidating? We are all called to be witnesses to the Gospel and to share Christ's good news of salvation:



"...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes ..." (Romans 1:16)

"He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him" (John 1:7).

On Wednesday, May 19, at 6:30 PM, we are kicking off a congregation wide effort to improve our witnessing abilities. We will be going through "How to Share Christ Confidently" in small a group setting over the course of several weeks. The 48 page booklet will be provided at no cost. Please watch for members of the Evangelism Board in early May at a sign-up table so we may get an idea of materials needed. We strongly encourage everyone to participate so that we can boldly share the hope that is in us!

The Evangelism Board,
Lynne Rodefild (President), Joshua Christian, Marie McQuarrie,
and Becky White

Schedule

May 19: 5:30 p.m. Kick off with an ice cream social at church!

May 19 – June 30: 4 sessions (times, days, and locations determined by each group)

June 30: Final session, with potluck and wrap up at church.

Join us for fellowship while we
learn how to share Christ with confidence!



A summer reading program that's all about Jesus.

It encourages kids to read all summer long, so they build vocabulary and comprehension skills while learning more about their Savior! CPH Reads runs from June 1 through August 13, 2021. Any book children read will earn them points, and if they log 1,000 points by August 13, they'll be entered in for a chance to win awesome prizes.

Get started in a few easy steps.

What you need to do:

1. Pick up a reading log from the table in the narthex.
2. Go to cph.org/reads with an adult to create an account.
3. Log any book they read between June 1 and August.
4. READ!

Read together.

Pray together.

Find hope together with Christ.



KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

This week on KFUO.org, finish Jude and begin Jeremiah on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study 1 Kings 11-16 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and learn how our Confessions interact with our daily life as Lutherans on Concord Matters (5/15 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts!

Happy Mother's Day



Strength and dignity are here clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Proverbs 31:25-26

HEART HEART - a Non-Profit

We have been working with this neighborhood group for a few years. Heart 2 Heart provides start-up goods for the homeless who are moving into their own housing. This includes Veterans, sheltered families and battered women, and young people transitioning from foster care. Other organizations find the housing and basic furniture, we provide the start-up needs.

The organization was founded by our neighbor, Linda Garrity, about 10 years ago. Caseworkers provide the names, ages, and needs of the families and a few of us “grandmas and grandpas” put together the orders for these families and load them into the cars for deliveries.

Donations come in from our neighbors and from those who have heard about Heart 2 Heart through word of mouth. Additionally, we scour thrift stores and purchase some new items, especially toys for the kids. One organization provides homemade quilts!

Needed donations include lightly used bedding, towels, books, toys, kitchen items such as pots, pans, dishes, cups, mugs, glasses, silverware, coffeemakers (each Veteran gets one), plastic storage like Glad or Tupperware, baking dishes, spatulas, etc. We do not deal with food, furniture, or clothing. However, we do purchase outfits for newborns, as no baby should leave the hospital in hand-me-down clothing.

If you have something that you no longer need, you can bring your items to church and we will drop them off at Linda's. If you have any questions, please call me, Becky White, at 303-506-8417. Thank you.

Steve and Becky White – 303-979-5978

Petitions and Prayers: Knowing God's great love for us, we ask that He listen and "answer (us) speedily."



Health concerns:

Gracious Father, grant these people healing as best suits Your will for their lives. Help them to pray, "If it be Your will," and so let them place themselves in Your care forever. You have shown Your love to all who suffer by sending Jesus, who bore all for us in His life and death. We pray in His name. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Sonja Bowles - Cancer
- Kevin Koessel (Karlee Shavlik's brother) – cancer
- Harlan Kurtz (Lisa Oliver's father) – recovering from infections
- Julie Ann Zamora

Prayer of intercession:

A Prayer for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

O living Lord Jesus, You are risen; You are risen indeed! By Your resurrection from the dead You crushed the head of Satan, You broke the back of death, and You destroyed the power of sin. Today You make the impossible true: sinners are forgiven and the dead live. In Your resurrection, help us see our forgiveness, our victory, and Your certain promise that we too will rise. You live—that is the heart of all our hope. Alleluia!

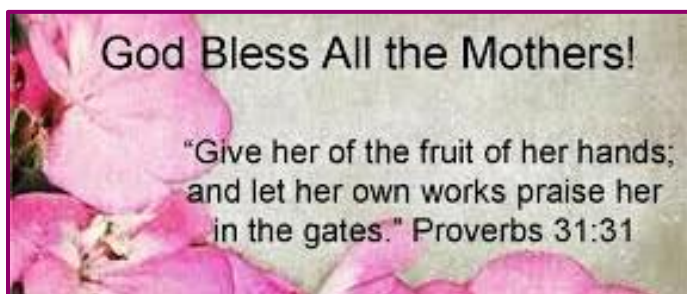
"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life

May 9, 2021

"Little though you can see it now, God intends to do wonderful things with you. If He is taking it slowly, that's no surprise; He did it the first time, too. Nothing the devil can do will stop the Lord from finishing His work in you. After all, He has already laid down His life to make you His own."

Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org





[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.

John 15:9

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Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!***



Check out
The Lutheran Hour
Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio
or
go to 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.



Choosy Mothers
Choose Jesus

