

February
2015



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Words from the Cross

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
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It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

Luke 23:44-47

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you want to know the full magnitude of your sin, you must go to Calvary. You must look to the One who is hanging there between heaven and earth, between two criminals, with outstretched arms, and with blood flowing over His whole body. You must watch as He is mocked and given vinegar and gall to drink. You must observe as He is slowly being tortured to death. It is not a criminal suffering what His deeds earned, for He calls to His Father in heaven, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." With a shaken heart, the centurion on duty called out after His death, "Certainly this man was innocent!" If the One who was crucified was only then recognized as an innocent man, we must truly be alarmed at the wickedness of men.

Jesus was, however, more than just an innocent man. He was and is the Son of the Most High God. He is the Lord of glory, the Creator of the world, and the God of all men, who, out of eternal love took on human form to redeem humankind. He traveled around, preached the Gospel, forgave sins, and healed those who were afflicted by the devil. And yet people seized Him, hung Him on a wooden cross, and crucified Him. This is the most shameful, vile, and cursed deed plotted in human hearts and carried out by human hands. Here we see human wickedness to the utmost degree and in its most abominable form. We see that the heart of man is capable of the most horrible thing imaginable: killing his own loving Creator. When the sun saw this, the crucifixion of the Lord of the universe, it ceased shining as if it could not bear to witness this agonizing scene. When the earth witnessed this, it quaked and tore its rocks as if in fury against this sacrilege toward its Maker.

On Golgotha, we see sin in the greatest magnitude imaginable and with the most horrifying result. For what Christ suffered there, He did not suffer for the sake of His own sin. Instead, He suffered voluntarily for the sake of our sin. "Surely," says the prophet Isaiah, "He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. . . . He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities" (53:4-5). What Christ suffered is what we should have eternally suffered for our sins. He endured the punishment, showing us that our sins merit eternal torment. He hung naked, disgraced, ridiculed, and in excruciating pain—the exact punishment our sins should have earned us. He thirsted and was not refreshed, demonstrating that our sins should have brought us eternal thirst and torment. His cross was placed between the crosses of robbers and murderers, showing us that our sins should have excluded us from the communion of all holy creatures and consigned us instead to the company of the children of wickedness and condemnation. Christ was also forsaken by God, underscoring the fact that our sins merit eternal rejection by God. He hung there in awful darkness, telling us that our sins should have earned us no light of grace. Christ, the Life, died, and this is a stark reminder to us that our sins merit eternal death and damnation.

Even if we do not want to believe the terrible threats of the Law against sin, God has painted them on Golgotha for us in broad and bloody brushstrokes so that all doubt and all excuses have been removed. On the cross of Christ, it is written before the eyes of all people: God does what He threatens. The sinner must die!

Continued...

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And so we sing:

*The Lamb, The Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!*

*He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness,
He live, forgives, He gives me his own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!*

(LSB 547:3,4)



Yours in Christ,
Pastor Skelton



Holy Cross Lutheran
Early Learning Center

Become part of a family at Holy Cross ELC!

**Come Tour
Today!**

***In-house (Church Members) Registration
receive 15% off tuition**

**-We also offer weekly Enrichment Summer Camps
(2 1/2- 8 years of age)**

Events this Month:

March 8 - Daylight Saving Time begins

March 12 - Patient on Purpose FREE Parenting Workshop 6:30-8pm

-Presented by Dianne Daniels, a certified parent coach, author, speaker, and founder of Mothering Like The Father Ministries. She speaks to parent groups all over Colorado, encouraging and equipping moms and dads to follow God more closely in their parenting. See additional information on next page.

March 23-27: Spring Break- No classes (child care open)

Prayer Families for the month of March are the following students and church families:

March 1: Jacob Hutton; Trinity Karlberg; Mogus Family; Morris Family; Music Family

March 8: Christian Monahan; Zachary Ortega; Nelson Family; Ogu family

March 15: Haley Pequette, Nathalie Polo; Chad and Angie Otto; Deanna Otto; Paulsen Family

March 22: Brielle Smith; Karis Thompson; Betty Petsch; Philbin Family; Pinkston Family

March 29: Isabel Ullom; Lexi Becker; Plohocky Family; Radtke Family; Robertson Family

In His name,
Megan Keeling, Director