

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Midweek of Lent 3

March 4, 2015





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7:15 PM

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.....9:15 a.m.

Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office.....303-683-1300

Megan Keeling Director, Early Learning Center.....303-683-1311

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

MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

Dear Savior Jesus, during this Lenten season give to us a fuller appreciation of what You went through during the last days of Your life. It was our sins and wickedness that made it necessary for You to go to the cross. Yet, Lent reminds us that there is hope for all who trust in You. We are genuinely sorry for our transgressions. You willingly took upon Yourself our iniquities. You have carried our sorrows. Your sacrifice has wiped away all sin. Thank You, dearest Redeemer, for suffering in our place. Hear us, Lord, in Your mercy. Amen.



Midweek of Lent 3

Marked

"God's own child, I gladly say it; I am baptized into Christ . . . I'm a child of paradise!" (*LSB* 594:1, 5). What a joy it is to sing this hymn! The prophet Isaiah also wants Judean exiles in Babylon to know the joy of belonging to God. The problem, though, was that these people weren't interested in singing the song of salvation. Babylon seemed to offer so much more! Isaiah counters with some of the most magnificent promises in the Old Testament, all to the end that God's people remember that they are His. On the day when you were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, your pastor probably also spoke these words to you: "Receive the sign of the holy cross, both upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified." We are marked, forever! "Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine" (*LSB* 594:4).

The **Call to Worship/Confession and Absolution** is drawn from the Seven Penitential Psalms, so named by Cassiodorus (c. AD 485–c. AD 585) in the sixth century AD. For centuries, Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143 have served as a source of prayer and reflection during Lent. Their honest confessions invite us to turn to our Lord with the same spirit of candor and humility.

Invocation

2 Corinthians 13:14

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

G Amen.

684 Come unto Me, Ye Weary, vs, 1-3

Call to Worship

Psalm 38

P LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger or discipline me in Your wrath.

Men: My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.

Women: My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly.

Men: I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning.

Women: I am feeble and utterly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart.

Men: All my longings lie open before You, O Lord; my sighing is not hidden from You.

Women: My heart pounds; my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes.

Men: I am like a deaf man, who cannot hear, like a mute, who cannot open his mouth;

All: We wait for You, O LORD; You will answer, O Lord our God.

P We confess our iniquity; we are troubled by our sin.

Women: O LORD, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God.

Men: Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior.

P God has heard your cry for help and comes to you in mercy and grace. Christ's blood forgives you; His resurrection absolves you; His Holy Spirit enlivens you, and His sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper assure you that He has put away your sins as far as the east is from the west. These promises belong to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Response

684 Come unto Me, Ye Weary, vs. 4

Prayer of the day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray. Loving and gracious Father, we thank and praise You for the gift of Holy Baptism. Through water and the Word You cleanse us from our sin, fill us with Your Holy Spirit, and make us Yours forever. May we always treasure and cherish this gift, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Today's Scripture readings have as their theme "God's Call on Our Lives."

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 44:1-5

"But now hear, O Jacob my servant,
Israel whom I have chosen!
Thus says the LORD who made you,
who formed you from the womb and will help you:
Fear not, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.
For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants.
They shall spring up among the grass
like willows by flowing streams.
This one will say, 'I am the LORD's,'
another will call on the name of Jacob,
and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,'
and name himself by the name of Israel."



Series hymn

Sing We Exiles (tune: LSB 559)

1. Sing we exiles in our sadness,
Though we wander dispossessed;
Sing for hope of future rest.
Jesus is our Way, our gladness,
Straight'ning crooked paths we roam,
Leading to our Father's home.
2. When our worth we poorly measure,
Guard us from the devil's lies;
Worth is in our Savior's eyes.
Not with gold or earthly treasure,
But with blood, His sacrifice
Paid for us the greatest price.
3. Sing we exiles in our yearning
To be healed from ev'ry wrong;
Sing the distant triumph song.
Father, guide us in returning
With repentance to Your will,
Lead us ever homeward still.

"Sing We Exiles" (© 2014 kelly klages)

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:15-5:6

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”



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 ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Sermon

“Marked”

Based on the Old Testament Reading

Sermon hymn:

601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

Offerings

*(Please add your name to the red fellowship
book and pass it to your fellow worshipers.)*



Prayers of the church

- P** Lord of power and might, we are forever thankful that our Savior bore on His body the marks of holy love.
- C** **The whips, thorns, nails, and spear left their mark.**
- P** You have left Your mark upon us in the waters of Holy Baptism:
- C** **Cleansing forgiveness, new birth, and the gift of eternal life.**
- P** You empower us to leave this mark upon others
- C** **Through “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:22–23)**
- P** Enable us to bear on our body the marks of Christ
- C** **Until the whole world knows that He is Savior and Lord.**

(Insert congregational prayers here)

- P** Father in heaven, hear us, deliver us, and bring us at last to our heavenly home where You live with the Son and Holy Spirit, God forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Hear us, loving Father, as we pray the prayer our Lord taught us.,

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.

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G Amen.

829 Christ the Eternal Lord, vs. 1, 3, 5

Silent Prayer: Father, in baptism we recall the water, remember the Word, and forever cherish this liturgical rite. "Receive the sign of the holy cross, both upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified." We give You thanks that we have been marked in baptism as one redeemed by Christ the crucified. Amen and amen!



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)



