



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service One

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023





The Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

8 AM 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.
Church Office.....303-683-1300
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Cell.....303-908-3339
Fax.....303-470-0165

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

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Easter

Dear resurrected Lord, even though we were not privileged to be eyewitnesses to Your resurrection, we thank You that we "have not seen and yet have believed." In times of doubt, may we turn to Your Word for the real proof we need that You rose from the dead and are victorious. May we never seek reassurance, guidance, and strength from other than Your Word. Help us in times of despair, grief, heartache, and loneliness to search the Scriptures for the message of forgiveness because of the cross by which Your Father's anger with the sinful nature of the human race has been removed forever. Grant us to trust that we need never again live with doubts and fears, that we need no other foundation for our faith than Your Holy Word which removes all our doubts. In Your blessed name. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

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.

C Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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

Psalm 133; antiphon: v. 1



Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is*
when brothers dwell in | unity!

**It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard, on the beard of | Aaron,*
running down on the collar | of his robes!**

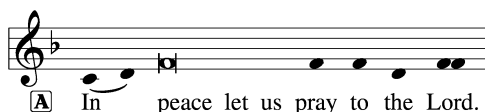
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of | Zion*
For there the LORD has commanded
the blessing, life for- | evermore.

**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.**

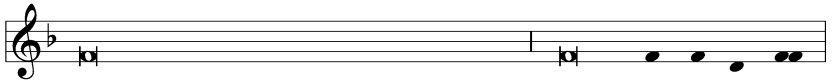
Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is*
when brothers dwell in | unity!

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



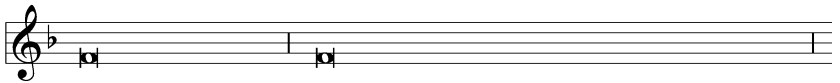
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



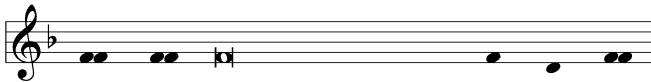
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36–41

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6



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 Peter 1:17–25

If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for

"All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord remains forever."

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand



Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter

into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

483 With High Delight Let Us Unite

Sermon

"Strangers in This World"

Text: 1 Peter 1:17-25

879 Stay With Us

Stand



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 ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

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

Sit

Offering

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

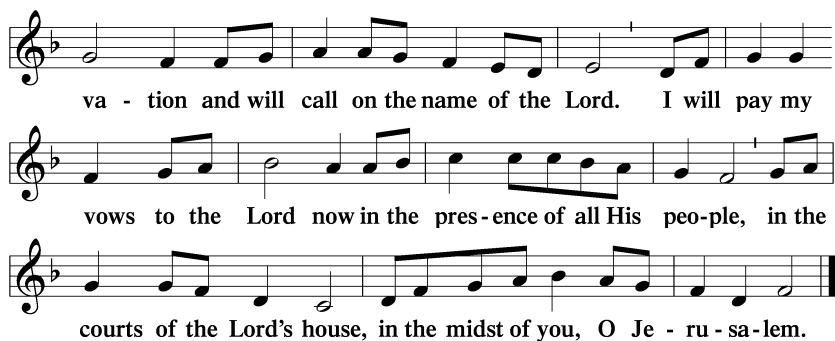
Stand

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
 me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

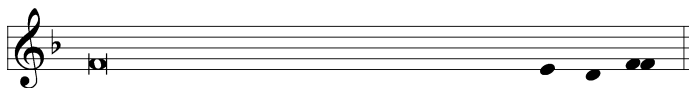
Post-Communion Collect

P 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.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26



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 A - men.

919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Announcements



Assisting Elders:
8 a.m. – Steve White
10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson



We will be recognizing our graduates on Sunday, May 7. Please call the church office, 303-683-1300, with the name of your high school or college graduate, date of graduation, school, and plans after graduation. Thank you.

Fellowship Committee



We have a new Fellowship Committee that is looking for members! We will organize, plan, and execute providing snacks for special occasions, fun activities, and social events. If you are interested in participating in the planning of Christian fellowship, please contact Kathy Harrington at 1-209-352-6893.

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:20)

Road to Emmaus

L D R D P Y S C R I P T U R E S K
Q O X E Y U V E R G S S O G N L G
S P P N A F U M V C L E O P A S Z
T L S E A V M M K I X S O E P T B
S A E M X X B A M X L L M Q R W Z
E R Y O Q E E U W V N A O F O C H
I N V W D B Z S R R R V O J P O E
R S E S O M C W I J W S E F H N G
P U N W T E M P T Y B R M X E D K
F N I L M B R F W Z U K L E T E W
E A E Z Y N L H G S A N U T S M L
I Z I J S H J R A C Y Q T A D N L
H A P E T Z S L Z G V Q X Z L E O
C R B S O I E M Z R O B H S C D S
J E F U M M G B Y K N D M M L H Q
K T O S B C R U F I C I F I E D E
Z H L D T Q M Y V P L G M V T Q N

Jerusalem
Empty
Condemned
Nazareth
Scriptures
Alive
Chief Priests
Emmaus
Prophets
Women
God
Cleopas
Moses
Tomb
Crucified
Jesus



Spring is almost here and maybe you too are excited to do some gardening in the fresh air. Here at Holy Cross we have flower beds that would love some tender loving care. Whether you have gardening experience or not, please consider adopting one of the flower beds. You might prefer the quiet time to garden alone or perhaps you would enjoy tending a bed with a friend, your spouse, children, or grandchildren. All are welcome. You would be able to choose the plantings and tend the bed on your schedule. Some funding is available if cost is an issue. Please contact Debbie Skelton at 720-470-1706 to volunteer and to pick out your flower bed. Thank you for making Holy Cross more beautiful!



The Ladies of Christ Lutheran Church and the Ruth Guild of University Hills Lutheran Church are hosting the

SPRING LWML RALLY

at Christ Lutheran Church located at
2695 S. Franklin St., Denver, CO 80210



**on Saturday, April 29, 2023
from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

We will have pastries and fruit for breakfast.
Lunch will be provided.

The Bethesda Craft Sale will be present.

We will be collecting shoes in any condition for Soles for Souls.
We will be collecting canned vegetables for the Community Food Bank.
We will be collecting newborn baby items – diapers, wipes, clothes.



Throughout the last year Higher Things (HT) has seen over a 6000% increase in our social media interaction, created over 500 pieces of video content, published 365 devotions in print and audio, 35 Bible studies, confirmation curriculum, a Vacation Bible School, and hosted 10 retreats and two conferences to over 3000 youth and young adults.

The mission of Higher Things is to make the Gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. Your one time or reoccurring gift helps us accomplish this mission. We ask that you partner with us to raise \$15,000 through the next ten days as we close our fiscal year. Go to higherthings.org.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!



The Lutheran Chorale presents its May concert, "Something Old, Something New, Something Tried, All Are True" on Sunday, May 7, 2023. The concert includes a wide range of music, from Bach and Handel to inspiring anthems, fun spirituals and more. You won't want to miss it!

Sunday, May 7, 2023 -- 2:30pm

Atonement Lutheran Church

6281 W Yale Ave.

Lakewood, CO 80227

303-985-1122

and

Sunday, May 7, 2023 -- 6:30pm

Shepherd of the Rockies Lutheran Church

106 Rosalie Rd

Bailey, CO 80421,

303-838-2161

There is no cost to attend, but a free will offering will be collected.



Please check the **Sunday Greeter schedule**, posted on the bulletin board, to find out when you're scheduled to serve. Thank you!

You need a VOICE on Capitol Hill



That's why the LCMS established the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) in Washington, D.C.

During the mid-1800s, men and women who would form The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) came to the United States seeking the religious freedom guaranteed in our nation's Constitution. Today, that religious freedom is eroding under continuous assault.

What does the LCRL do?

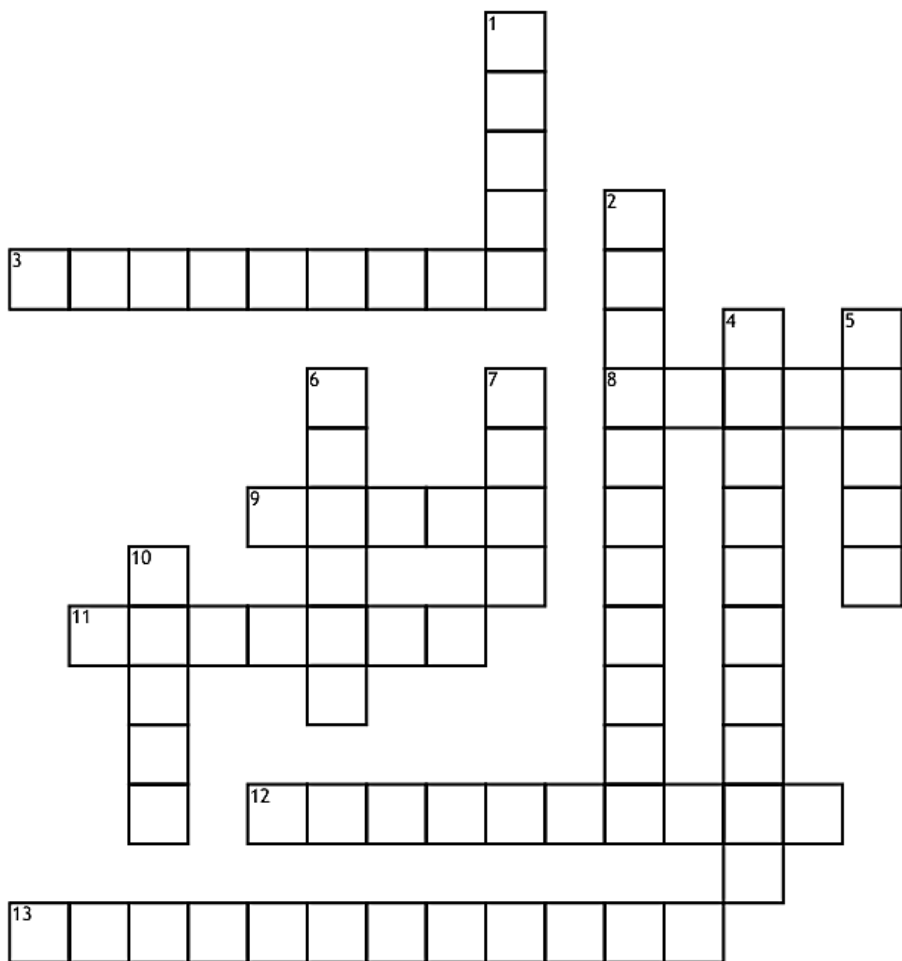
- 1. ENCOURAGE:** We support those who are working hard to protect religious liberty, the sanctity of life, traditional marriage, and private and parochial education.
- 2. EDUCATE:** We prepare LCMS churches, schools, universities, pastors and laypeople to engage public issues for the sake of the community and Gospel.
- 3. ADVOCATE:** We speak on behalf of churches, schools and universities, because the government is encroaching into the arena of the Church and because God's people have a role in sharing the Gospel and helping society be civil and just.

How can you get involved?

- 1. Pray.** Ask the Lord to send good and faithful elected officials and other leaders who will govern with wisdom, honesty and truth.
- 2. Start conversations.** Share what Scripture has to say about marriage, life and religious liberty — whether it's over dinner, the neighbor's fence, or the water cooler at work — even if others disagree!
- 3. Visit lcrifreedom.org.** Receive weekly devotions and updates from the LCRL.
- 4. Make an investment.** Help your church and country in ways that will assist generations to come. Call LCMS Mission Advancement at 888-930-4438 or email mission.advancement@lcms.org.

lcrifreedom.org

Easter Story



Across

3. Who attended the Last Supper?
8. What did Jesus wear on the cross?
9. Who denied Jesus 3 times?
11. Who hung on crosses next to Jesus?
12. What is the Sunday before Easter called?

13. What is it called when Jesus was raised from the dead?

Down

1. Who betrayed Jesus?
2. Pontious Pilot's verdict for Jesus
4. What is the Friday before Easter called?

5. Who rolled away the stone?

6. How many disciples did Jesus have?

7. Who found the empty tomb?

10. How many days did Jesus lay in the grave?

Petitions and Prayers: Our heavenly Father understands that we are often too weak to pray and do not know how to pray “as we ought.”



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:

Devon Hanson (grandson of Connie and Terry Mitchell) – mental health issues

Roger Frank (brother of Connie Mitchell) cancer

Mary (relative of Tabris') pray for protection and wisdom for her family concerning special needs.

Angela (single mother in Illinois) friend of Helen Tabris –waiting for heart transplant

Jamie (is missing and has mental health issues) and young daughter Jade (is being adopted by family in Colorado)

Prayer of intercession:

**O Lord Jesus Christ, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving that because You endured even the darkness of hell itself for us, we can now walk in the light of Your love. In Your death is only a shadow. We will one day enter the place of eternal light and there worship You in endless day. Hallelujah!*

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life

April 23, 2023

“I encourage everyone that I meet with to check my words and teaching against God’s Word. Ask questions, challenge everything by that Word. I want them to know Jesus and to have that faith which says, ‘This is what Jesus says, I am forgiven! I am set free! I am serving and living as a disciple of Jesus! I will go into heaven because of Jesus! ... I am part of God’s family!’”

*Pastor Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



**He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces.**

Isaiah 25:8

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.
Church Office.....303-683-1300
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, cell.....303-908-3339
Website.....www.hclchr.org

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:

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
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.



**Never be lost
with GPS
(God's Precious Son).**

A Prayer for Our Nation

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Dear Heavenly Father, nothing in this world ultimately works unless it honors you, is blessed by you. We pray for our nation daily, that we might be a people whose hearts are turned towards you in repentance and faith, whose lives are turned towards others in service in your Name. To know love is to know the God who is love. To have life is to know the God who gives life to all. To know lasting peace is to know the prince of peace who came to this world to save. With awe and wonder we lift up our hearts and minds in prayer to you this day, praying for our country, our leaders, our workers, our business owners, our families, our people. Lord, we offer these prayers knowing that you are already at work in the world, two distinct ways, to bless and to redeem. Through created "offices" and vocations you keep peace, justice, and civility alive amidst broken, sinful people. Through your Church, you offer a Grace, Mercy and Peace that is pure gift to those same people meant not just for today but forever.

For order, peace and justice in these times, you created the "offices," the vocations of father, mother, and family. You created the positions of leadership and service that flow from the authority of the family into our daily lives that we (believers and non) might live in peace with one another. Presidents, Governors, Mayors, police, teachers, and all public servants... Business people, entrepreneurs, inventors, sales people, marketers... Writers, artists of all kinds... These and many other vocations exist in our world because of your creativity and love. When you call us to "give to Caesar what is Caesar's, you call us to pray for people in all of these vocations and more. We pray this day for all those in high positions

that they would be people of character, honor, and wisdom. We also pray that they above all, do the duties of their office so that we might have a peaceful and just society, one that affords life and liberty to all who pursue it diligently and faithfully.

Our nation though has wandered from the things of life and liberty. Ours is a nation that is seeking to chart a new path of libertinism in all of its relationships, and license when it comes to the foundational principles that you have written not just on Moses' tablets of stone, but on the hearts of every person who calls themselves human and humane. Where there is a war against Life, we pray for Life's victory in all its fullness. For those yet unborn, for those at the end of their earthly life, for those who are forgotten ones in this world, we pray that the fullness of Life be their cherished inheritance in this country of inalienable rights from our Creator. Where there is a war against religious liberty in our midst, we pray for Liberty to shine even more boldly so that all might hear the wonders of you "who has called us out of darkness into your marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)."

To that end, we pray most earnestly of all. In a nation that grants its citizens liberty and freedom, in a nation that seeks to limit the powerful and set free the religious, disciplined, self-governing citizen free... We, as believers, pray that we might rise to that challenge as your people, to proclaim your ultimate work of redemption for all. We pray for strength and courage to be neighbors to others the way that you are friend to us. We pray for opportunities and wisdom to love others as we ourselves have been loved by you. Dear Father, you sent your Son, who left His power position in heaven to be born in a lowly stable, to live life in our place, to die a death that is the recompense for this world's sin, and to give us eternal life as a gift now and forever. May that motivate our prayers and our service to our friends and our enemies, to our brothers and sisters in the faith and our neighbors in the community, and all who are in authority to lead and to serve. Give us strength to be a people constantly in prayer, available for service, and bold in our witness of the God who is at work in the world to save. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen!