Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Divine Service Four

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023





The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

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.
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 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

469 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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

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

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

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

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

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.

Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 119:89–93; antiphon: v. 105



Your word is a lamp | to my feet* and a light | to my path.

Forever, O | LORD, your word* is firmly fixed | in the heavens.

Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations;* you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.

By your appointment they | stand this day,* for all things are your | servants.

If your law had not been | my delight,*
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.

I will never forget your | precepts,*
for by them you have giv- | en me life.

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.

Your word is a lamp to my feet* and a light to my path.

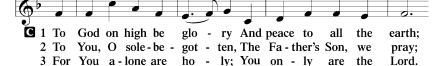
Kyrie Mark 10:47



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

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29





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-shiped 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.
- **G** 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.

First Reading: Acts 17:16-31

While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

"'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

"'For we are indeed his offspring.'

Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- 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 3:13-22

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel: John 14:15-21

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.





Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

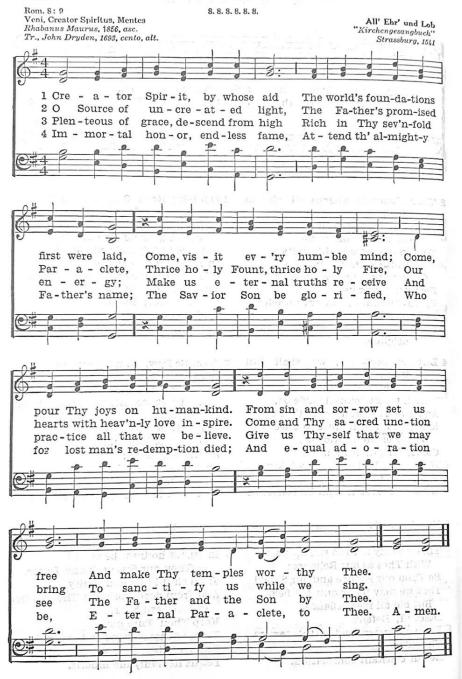
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the 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

→ everlasting. Amen.



Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid



Sermon

"The Paraclete"

Text: John 14:15-21

769 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

Stand

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.)



Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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

- Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

Benedicamus Psalm 103:1

- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Benediction Numbers 6:24-26

- 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

 quive you peace.
- Amen.

821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



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. – Scott Schlapkohl 10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson

Housing for intern student needed – Breana Downs, a student at Pacific Lutheran University in Parkland, WA is looking for housing for June, July and August while she internships for Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance in Sedalia. If you are interested, please call Breana at 360-591-8950 as soon as possible.



As one of our chosen Mission Projects for May and June 2023 we are

collecting items for the Alternatives Pregnancy Center (Denver). Below is a list or requested items that they need. Place your items in the container on the table in the narthex.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW * Items needed the most

- * Toiletries—baby shampoo, body wash and lotion
- * 3 12 month Onesies
- * 6 12 month Outfits
- * Hooded towels
- * Baby wash cloths
- * Baby wipes
- * Burp cloths
- * Bibs

- * Teethers/rattles
- * Baby toys
- * Baby books

Infant mittens

Baby hats (knit of cotton)

Pacifiers Bottles

Singles Mixer!

30-50? Single? Join us for a singles mixer in the narthex on Saturday, June 3rd from 12-2pm. Sandwiches will be provided. Please bring a side, dessert, or non-alcoholic drink to share. RSVP to Carol Skelton at 720-697-4676 by June 1.

Almighty God, thank You for our mothers, through whom You have brought us into this world. Thank You for Christian mothers, whose words and actions build up our own faith in Christ Jesus. Please care for our mothers, just as they have cared for us countless times. Give them energy each day to love, nurture, teach, protect, console, and serve others in numerous ways. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Mother's Day Word Search

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CARING CHILDREN DEVOTED FAMILY FLOWERS GIFTS GIVING HEART HOLIDAY HOME HONOR HUGS KISSES LAUGHTER LOVE MEMORIES MOMMY MOTHER NURTURE PARENT RESPECT SPECIAL SWEET THOUGHTFUL **Petitions and Prayers:** Knowing that the Spirit Himself helps us to pray, we have the assurance that for those who love God "all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."



Health concerns:

God, You have ever been the healer of Israel. When Your Son came among us, His healing power showed Your presence. We bring before You today our families and friends who are suffering. Like the friends who cut through the roof to lay the man who was paralyzed before Jesus, we beg You to ease the burden of their suffering Give strength and wisdom to those who tend them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Devon Hanson (grandson of Connie and Terry Mitchell) mental health issues
- Dillon (grandson of Connie and Terry Mitchell 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 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 14, 2023

"This, dear friends, is why Christ's ascension is a good goodbye. Jesus leaves you with everything! He has done it all. The grave is empty. Death is defeated. Life is yours. So, people of God, 'Why do you stand here looking into the sky?' You have an ascension victory to celebrate and an ascended Savior to proclaim!"

Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. John 14:27

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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.



Mary was the first person to carry the Gospel.