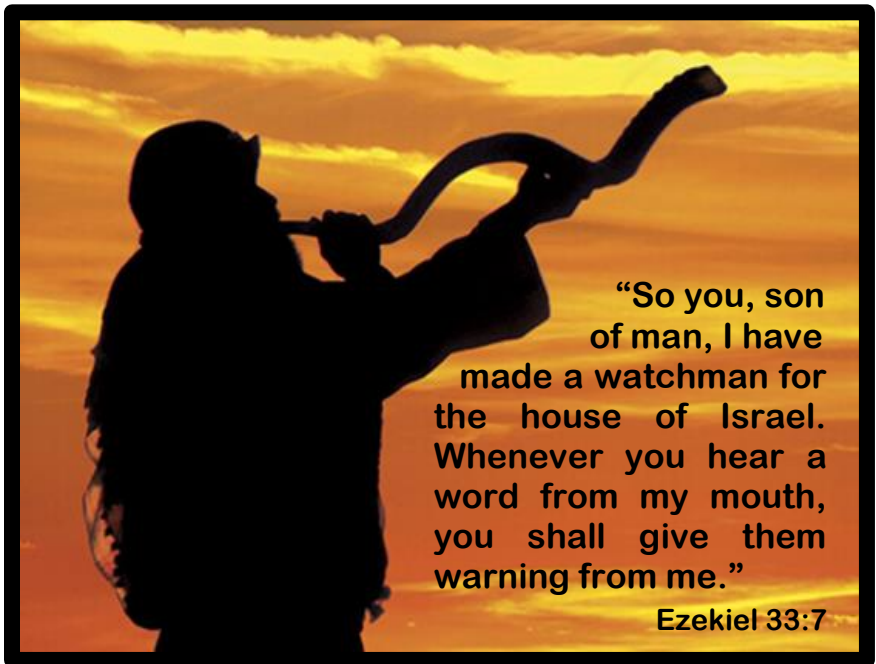


# **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**Divine Service Four**

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 10, 2023**



**“So you, son  
of man, I have  
made a watchman for  
the house of Israel.  
Whenever you hear a  
word from my mouth,  
you shall give them  
warning from me.”**

**Ezekiel 33:7**



## **The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 10, 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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, remind us that by nature every human heart is shrouded in darkness. None of us can by his own reason or strength believe in You who is the only true light. But what we cannot do on our own, the Holy Spirit can work in us through the Gospel. He sends its beams of light into our dark, perverted hearts, works faith in You, the true light, and awakens in us the desire to live as children of light who will one day enjoy the eternal light in Your heavenly mansions. Grant that we trust that whoever in faith comes to You, the true light, can no longer love darkness and the works of darkness; he must be engaged in works that reflect Your light. We pray in Your name, O precious light. Amen.



## Confession and Absolution

### 902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

*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*

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

- C** 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

*Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5*



How great are your works, | O LORD!\*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

**It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\***  
**to sing praises to your name, | O Most High;**

to declare your steadfast love in the | morning,\*  
and your faithful- | ness by night,

**to the music of the lute | and the harp,\***  
**to the melody | of the lyre.**

For you, O LORD, have made me glad | by your work;\*

at the works of your hands I | sing for joy.

**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.**

How great are your works, | O LORD!\*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

### Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



**G** 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-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.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the 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*

## Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7–9

"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not

steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



*John 20:31*



## Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1–20

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it

would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save the lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** 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.**

*Sit*

## **820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker**

### **Sermon**

**"God's Watchmen"**

Text: Ezekiel 33:7-9

## **649 Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

*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

- 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.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*

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

## 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.
- G** Amen.

## 920 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go



***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. – Joe Tabris



Pre-confirmation Class will begin tomorrow, Monday, September 11, 2023. The Pre-confirmation Class is for students in grades 4 and 5 and will be held from 5:45-6:30 p.m. on Monday's. Call the church office at 303-683-1300 if you have any questions.

## ALL LIFE STARTS WITH A SINGLE SEED

### Evangelism Board

*John: 15:16: You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*

The banner by the pulpit throughout August and September made me think about pastor's recent sermons on planting seeds and on our mission to share the Gospel with unbelievers.

The banner shows the progression of a seed to a mature, healthy plant bearing fruit. Additionally, the word **FAITH** is spelled out. Each letter in that word provides us understanding and gives us courage to evangelize. Here is what came to my mind.

- F Faith** that God is in control. Our **Father** gives us opportunities and words that we need, to plant seeds of Salvation.
- A Attention**, undivided. Listen to others who ask questions about your faith and/or might want to share about their own experiences, problems, etc. (Fertile ground for sowing seeds.)
- I Invest** in your own faith by attending Church, Bible Study, and in home Bible study. Show **interest** in others and **invite** them to attend service or a church event. (Fertile grounds for sowing seeds.)
- T Trust** in God who is the only one who can make those seeds take root and grow. The smallest seed may take **Time** to produce fruit.
- H Holy Spirit** and the **Harvest** of souls when Christ returns. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to provide understanding and to keep us in the one true faith. God wants all to be with him eternally in **Heaven**. That is why it is so important to share God's love and Christ's sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of all sins and for our salvation. **Plant the seed.**

I have found that many times those who ask me about my faith are lost and/or are looking for something. Two incidents came to mind.

The first involves a Jewish friend of ours, a very prominent Boston doctor, who asked me on two different occasions about my faith. That really caught me by surprise. I shared. I asked him why he wanted to know, and he replied that he is basically an atheist and is only Jewish by nationality. I also found out that he has terminal cancer. **Seed planted.**

The second incident involved a friend, raised Mormon, who had no time for religion. We shared with him our faith and how we were always there for him. While suffering greatly in hospice care, he reached out to us through his son and asked if our pastor would visit. After a phone call, Pastor showed up within 20 minutes. The time Pastor spent, sharing the Word and in prayer, led to our friend's acceptance of Christ as his Savior. While our friend was supposed to linger for another week, he peacefully passed away that very evening. **Fruit harvested.**

There are times when God puts us in the right place at the right time. **Don't be afraid.**

### All the Glory to God

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You are invited to a gathering at Ascension Lutheran Church in Littleton (1701 W. Caley Ave.) on

Thursday, September 14, from 10:30 am—12 noon. Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz, the pastoral representative from our circuit to the Synodical Convention that was held in Milwaukee, WI July 29-August 3, will report on topics discussed at the Convention. These topics include Concordia University-Texas and their decision to separate from the LCMS, and the Set Apart to Serve (SAS) initiative regarding the recruitment of church workers. He will be available to answer questions.



The LWML is having "Mite Box Sunday" TODAY and the second Sunday of every month. On these Sundays they have the big Mite Box in the narthex to gather free will offerings to support the mission projects they have selected to provide for this year.



**LWML Women of the Cross will meet on Saturday, September 16 at 10 a.m.**

***Portals of Prayer for  
October - December 2023 are out!***

*Pick up your copy from the table in the narthex. We have digest size copies if you need larger print. These are a great resource to use in your daily devotions!*

## When Someone Hurts You

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. Matthew 18:15a

Based on Matthew 18:15-20 (NIV)



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

TRUTH  
AGAINST  
CHURCH  
YOU

HEAVEN  
EARTH  
WITNESSES  
AGREE

BIND  
SINS  
REFUSES  
TESTIMONY

FAULT  
LOOSE  
HEAVEN  
WON

FATHER  
SHOW  
LISTENS  
BROTHER

**Petitions and Prayers:** We pray because God has commanded us to pray.



### **Health concerns:**

*Dearest Jesus, You suffered and died on the cross in our place, You have compassion on us in all of our difficulties. Grant peace of mind and strength of body to those who are ill so that they trust in You above all else. Amen.*

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- **Paula Mayer** fell and broke her arm and will need surgery. Pray for healing.
- **Mark Von Soosten**, husband of Carol (Marie McQuarries friend) has pancreatic cancer. Pray for the Lord's guidance in treatment and the Lord's will for Mark and family.
- **Joy** and **Bil Pinkston** are grateful for the prayers offered by Pastor Skelton and the congregation the last few weeks on behalf of the following people:
  - \* **Joy** continues to heal from her knee surgery.
  - \* **Carolyn** is healing from hip replacement surgery.
  - \* **Eric Pinkston's** condition has improved with testing and changes in medications and treatment for his heart problems.
  - \* **Elaine** has a test re her heart condition in September.
  - \* **Greg** (on kidney dialysis for several years) has an appointment at the May Clinic regarding a possible kidney transplant.
- **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)

### **“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life September 10, 2023**

“There is no more valuable work for God and for all of Christendom than bringing up your children in the faith and trust of Jesus! It’s not hard to believe that if this were our primary aim, that our children would not question their gender, that they would respect their neighbor and love their spouses, that they would welcome the opportunity to serve the public with politics that reflect solid biblical values, and that they would continue to attend church well after confirmation!”

*Rev. Jeff Duncan, Lutherans For Life*

*A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*



Love one another with brotherly affection.  
Outdo one another in showing honor  
*Romans 12:10*

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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](https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch).

YHWH  
YAHWEH or JEHOVAH



Hebrew is written from Right to left so  
YHWH would be HWHY. Ancient Hebrew did  
not use vowels lest they write or say God's  
name wrong. The "H" was a picture of the  
wind or breath.

**God, help me to live not my way, but Yahweh!**