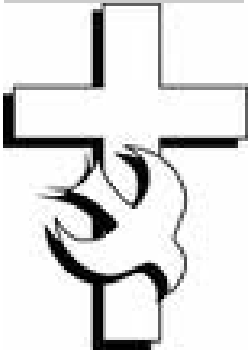


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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Words from the Cross

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***Do you not know? Do you not hear?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?  
It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.***

Isaiah 40:21-22

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What is God like? Using images we can grasp, Isaiah pictures God sitting on the circle of the earth (notice the Bible does not teach about a flat earth as some critics claim) and we are like grasshoppers. If you have ever held a grasshopper in your hand, you may wonder what it understood of your nature. Two things, perhaps. The grasshopper knew that you had the power to hold him fast and that you had the ability to crush or destroy him at will.

The power of God is undeniable and unmistakable. Because of this, primitive heathens always viewed their god or gods as a threat. Modern heathens, who often have no names for their god or gods, share this fear and they, like their ancient brethren, seek to do works of satisfaction to appease their omnipotent task masters. They are filled with dread and fear of the unsearchable Almighty God because they have a conscience, a built-in sense of right and wrong, and they know that they are sinful or unrighteous. Today's heathens know they deserve to be punished, and they do all they can to avoid it.

How could a grasshopper ever know our nature? Only if we would become a grasshopper and show it, expressing in terms of a grasshopper what we are like. So, the answer to the question of what God is like is best found in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Here was a man who claimed to be God, said the things that only God could say and did things that only God could do, and accepted the worship that should be rendered only to God.

The religious leaders of His day called Him a blasphemer which, if true, would have merited the punishment they gave Him, but they were wrong. Jesus was and still is fully God. He who was God from all eternity came to us as a man and told us about Himself. We beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. The height of that glory was the cross, where He died our death and took the punishment that we deserved. He died for those who were afraid and fleeing from God. He died for sinners. He died for you and me.

In good Lutheran fashion, we ask, "What does this mean?" Simply this, that we grasshoppers need not fear the Almighty's hands that hold us. By faith in Jesus Christ, we know that our God is a merciful and loving God who seeks not to destroy us but to save us and to give us everlasting life. May God grant that we ever live in this glorious truth and not be afraid to share it with others.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Skelton

