

Vacancy Team Affirmation & Pastoral Sending Service

April 14, 2024 • 8:30 a.m.

(Readings for Easter 3— Series B)

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” **LSB #465** vv. 1 & 3

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set

praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has tri - umphed!
heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer

He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's

clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
day That by our lives we tru - ly

here: “Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!”
say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

ENTRANCE PSALM, CONFESSION, AND ABSOLUTION Psalm 30

Pastor: I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up

People: **and have not let my foes rejoice over me.** *(Psalm 30:7)*

Pastor: O Lord, My God! I cried to you for help,

People: **and you have healed me.**

Pastor: O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;

People: **you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,

People: **and give thanks to his holy name.**

Pastor: For his anger is but for a moment.

People: **And his favor is for a lifetime.** *(Psalm 30:1-5a)*

Pastor: **LORD** God,

People: **We know that your anger does not burn against us for long and so even in our sins we are confident to come to you to find forgiveness. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed both in what we have done and in what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Let your favor be upon us. Forgive us for Jesus sake. Amen.**

(Silence personal reflection and confession)

Pastor: Weeping may tarry for the night,

People: **but joy comes in the morning.** *(Psalm 30:5b)*

Pastor: Weeping tarried the night that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but joy came on the morning of the third day with the news of Jesus' resurrection. Because of him, the favor of God is upon us and all our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CHOIR “Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring” by Bach

FIRST READING Acts 3:11-21

¹¹While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?”

¹³“The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that
 Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 24:36-49

Pastor: The Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

INSTALLATION OF VACANCY MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS: Will Vogt and Pastor Shaun Adams

(Pastor Shaun Adams and Will Vogt are invited to come up before the altar.)

Pastor: Dear brothers in Christ, you have been asked by this congregation to serve the time of pastoral vacancy as part of the ministry team, Pastor Shaun Adams as Vacancy Pastor and Will Vogt as Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator. Here what the scriptures have to say about those who serve in the church:

READING Romans 12:3-8

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

READING Colossians 3:15-17

¹⁵ let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Members of the Holy Cross Board of Directors and the Ministry Leadership Team will come up and surround them placing a hand on their shoulders. Congregational members may hold up a hand in a gesture symbolic of their prayerful hands on them as well.)

Pastor: In the presence of God and of this congregation, I install you Shaun Adams as vacancy pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church serving in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: In the presence of God and of this congregation, I install you Will Vogt as Youth and Family ministry coordinator of Holy Cross Lutheran Church serving in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Go in the name of the Lord.

People: **Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**

Pastor: The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless and preserve you.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB #700 vv. 1-2

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - pha
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
bound - ed love - Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.

SERMON *“We the Witnesses”*
Text: Luke 24:48

OFFERING

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**

SENDING INTO MINISTRY FOR THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT
Pastor Mike Von Behren

SENDING READING Acts 13:1-3

¹Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Pastor: Mike Von Behren has been called by God through the church to serve the as President of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Having prayerfully accepted that call in response to the Holy Spirit are you willing and ready to send him into this ministry with your prayerful support?

People: **We recognize this as a call from God the Father, through his Spirit, to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We will prayerfully send Pastor Mike into this new ministry.**

A MESSAGE from Pastor Mike’s Vicarage Supervisor and first Lead Pastor, Pastor Mark Benning

PRAYER OF SENDING

(Pastor Mike and Jennifer will come forward. Members of the Holy Cross Board of Directors will come foreword to stand behind them and lay a hand on their shoulders. Congregational members may hold up a hand in a gesture symbolic of their prayerful hands on them as well.)

Pastor: Lord God, merciful and gracious Father, we give thanks for all the blessings you have bestowed on this congregation, its members, and the church through your servant Pastor Mike.

People: **By your Word and Spirit preserve Pastor Mike in the one true faith. Grant Pastor Mike faithfulness in his service as District President and a readiness to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and skill for those he serves. Bless he and Jennifer as they enter into this new call together; may their service be to the glory of your holy name.**

Pastor: This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Pastor Mike will return to the pews to sit with his family, Pastor Shaun Adams and Pastor Mark Benning will continue to lead the service.)

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And Also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

HYMN “Love Divine All Loves Excelling”

LSB #700 v.3

- 3. Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.**

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THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

John 20:19

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Love Divine All Loves Excelling”

LSB #700 v.4

- 4. Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN "At the Lamb's High Feast"

LSB #633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5. **Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!**
6. **Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!**
7. **Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!**
8. **Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!**

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HYMN "Sent forth by God's Blessing"

LSB #643



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
 2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,



The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.



The Sup-er is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
 Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,



The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
 Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
 U-nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
 Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing



To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
 Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” **LSB #465 v. 4**

△ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And
with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has tri - umphed!
Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the Fa - ther and our
Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly
God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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THANK YOU to former Holy Cross Pastor Mark Benning and his wife Emily for joining us and for all who assisted with our worship today.

Acknowledgments:

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