

Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a part of the worldwide Lutheran Church body. We invite you to join us for worship, and for a variety of opportunities for growth and service. If you are new here, welcome! If you are newly returned to church, we rejoice with you! If you are a member, we celebrate your involvement in this faith community! You do not need to be a member to participate in our ministry and mission.

Mission Statement

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church invites all to join in celebrating Christ's love as we worship, learn, and serve.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is mounted on the right (north) side of the main hallway, just before the restrooms.

Prayer Requests may be phoned to the church office (303-469-4004), emailed to <u>churchoffice@cross-of-christ.org</u>, or put in the prayer box located in the Narthex. Our Prayer Team is made up of people who are dedicated to pray for others.

Children's Worship Space: We invite you and your children to use:

Carpeted area: Feel free to use items in this space or take them to a "pew seat."

Booster cushions: Please take a booster cushion to your seat and return it to the hooks in the narthex after worship.

Reusable Worship Bags: Pick yours up from the church office and **Take & Keep Worship Bags:** Activity bags are available in the narthex for visitors.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Closed Fridays.



Online Giving: Many of our members give online at www.cross-of-christ.org or by scanning this QR code with your phone's camera, however, you may also place your offering in the offering plates.

First Time Guests: We're glad you are here! Be sure to tell us about yourself by using this QR code.

If you'd like to learn more about us, please visit our website at www.cross-of-christ.org.



Pastors and Staff

Kathleen Armstrong Lead Pastor

Aly Kohlmeyer Associate Pastor

Amy Pallas Director of Children's Ministry

Joseph Noelliste Director of Music Ministry

Nikki Leverone Financial Secretary

Jessica Wanecek Office Administrator

Scott Elvington/Shannon Hazler Audio & Visual Ministers

Church Council council@cross-of-christ.org

Amy Goodmanson Preschool/Kindergarten Director

To contact the Church Staff, please email: churchoffice@cross-of-christ.org

The Altar Flowers given this week by:

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. St. Patrick's Day Breakfast

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Together in Faith:

First Communion – T.I.F. room

10:15 a.m. Adult Education – room 20

11:15 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

(Contemporary Service)

Wednesdays through Lent March 20

12:15–12:45 p.m. Mid-Week Meditation

6:00 p.m. Simple Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer Service Speaker: Matt Seitz



♦ Gathering **♦**

The pastors and assisting minister will read the normal print. Congregation responds with bold print.

The Third Graders have completed their Together in Faith class, "Opening the Bible", and are assisting in leading worship today.

PRELUDE

This is Amazing Grace

Joseph Noëlliste Phil Wickham

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

People of God,

the Merciful One already knows everything we confess.

By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness,

we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another.

Let's bring before God what we have done wrong

and what we've failed to do,

trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven.

Brief silence for reflection.

God of abundant goodness,

we have hurt those we love,

those far from us, ourselves, and your creation

by what we do and by what we neglect.

We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures

and refuse to enjoy what you give.

We are too content with the injustice, violence,

and hardships that plague our neighbors.

Forgive us for what we have done

and for what we have failed to do.

Pour out on us the joy of your presence

and heal what we have harmed.

Beloved, receive these joyful words:

You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins.

You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child.

You are released to live out God's love

in a world that needs such joy.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

O God, Who Gives Us Life (verses 1 & 3)

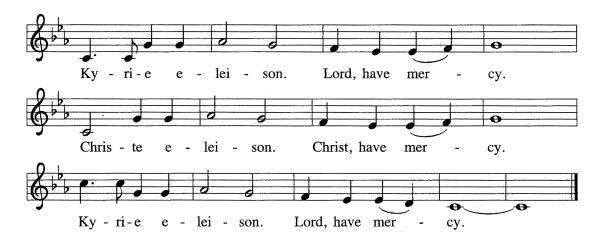


GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE (All Sing)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Voice, your call resonates in the depth of our being, urging us toward places where others need help. Give us the courage to say yes to you today. Pour into the places where your gifts meet your invitation.

Amen.

♦ Word **♦**

READING

A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

God speaks to us in many ways.

You reach out to us in your spoken Word.

PSALM READING

Psalm 51:1-12

A reading from the book of Psalms. *To be read responsivley.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

God speaks to us in many ways.

You reach out to us in your spoken Word.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children's Gathering Song

Down in My Heart

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, (where?)

Down in my heart, (where?)

Down in my heart.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart (where?)

Down in my heart to stay!

Children's Message

Pastor Aly Kohlmeyer

Children's Church

Children may follow the children's church leader to the Fellowship Hall. They will return during the Hymn of the Day.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

GOSPEL LESSON John 12:20-33

The Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

SERMON

"Vocational Joy"

Pastor Aly Kohlmeyer

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light



Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Refrain:

God of unending joy,

Answer us.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The sign of Peace is not the same as saying "hello" to our neighbors. Rather, the Peace of Christ is a sign of forgiveness and love we receive in Holy Communion and our hope to be able to share that with each other in this community.

The peace of Christ be with you always,

And also with you.



OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

Children are invited to come forward with their offering and place it in the basket in front of the altar while the offering plates are being passed.

OFFERING MUSIC

God Be in My Head

Eetung Chen, solo Soli Dei Choir Philip Wilby

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, you give us so much; our passions and talents, the food we eat, the homes we know, and a place to worship. Receive the gifts we offer back to you today. Bless them and bless us, that we will give generously, love boldly, and share widely, our offering reflecting your joyful gift. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is our duty and delight...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to all to drink, saying "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

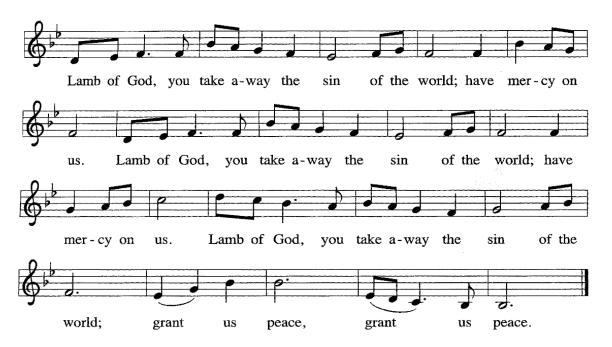
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at Jesus' table. He gives of himself in the bread and wine, and invites us to receive it for the forgiveness of sin.

Please form two lines in the aisle as you come forward. Grape juice is available in the center of each tray of communion glasses for those who desire it; and gluten-free wafers are available from those serving. If you need communion brought to you, please tell an usher. Children and adults who would like a blessing instead of receiving communion, please indicate this by crossing your hands over your chest.

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come with joy!

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION WORSHIP SONG

In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light, my strength, my song This cornerstone, this solid ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace When fears are stilled, when strivings cease My comforter, my all in all Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2

There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Joseph Noëlliste Passion/Stanfill

Verse 3

No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand 'Til He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Bridge

I find my strength, I find my hope I find my help in Christ alone When fear assails, when darkness falls I find my peace in Christ alone

I give my life, I give my all I sing my song to Christ alone The King of kings, the Lord of all All heaven sings to Christ alone

To Christ alone
To Christ alone

Verse 4

'Til He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand Here in the power of Christ we stand

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one so we may feed the world in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BENEDICTION

The One who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos weaves joy within your own heart. The One who experienced all our human joys and sorrows travels right beside you. The One who whispers joy to our hearts is present within you. You are blessed in the name of God, + Holy Three in One. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt. Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

SENDING

Practice Joy.
As you leave this place,
go with the joy that fills with meaning.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

God Be in My Head (Reprise)

Soli Dei Choir Philip Wilby

♣ LEADERSHIP **♣**

9:00 AM

11:15 AM

Assisting Ministers/Readers

Caleb Vega

Jackson Hoornaert

Austin Varnado

Lorelei Flowers

Benjamin Dittmer Anara Connolly

Communion Assistants Karen and Jim Garrett

Lisa Kassel

Ushers

Altar Guild Susan Herrick and Elise Tom



With permission, we offer the first names of those among our community for whom we pray. These names will be shared here for up to three weeks. Let us pray for:

Tom

Judy

Mary

On-going prayers for:

Pastor Meghan, Pastor Gabi Aelabouni, and family serving in Jerusalem and the West Bank Pastor Samm Melton-Hill serving with New Beginnings Worshipping Community in Denver Bishop Jim Gonia, Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Philippians 4:6

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more details about all the upcoming events, please make sure to read the Cross of Christ weekly newsletter. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please contact the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

St. Patrick's Day Breakfast



March 17, 2024 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Free Will Donation - Summer Service Trip to Appalachia Fundraiser

Needing donations of Egg Dishes, Fruit, and Baked Goods.

Join us Today in the Fellowship Hall

Honor or remember a loved one by purchasing an Easter Lily. Call the church office or see the newsletter to order.

Deadline is March 17th. \$10 each.







FAITH FORMATION







The Season of ent

Wednesday Night Worship

Cross of Christ offers a simple soup supper Wednesday nights during the Season of Lent followed by a worship service. This service is an intimate worship service that is fitting for all ages.

Please join us.





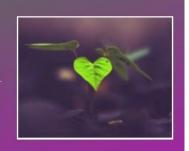
Lent Adult Education Series February 25th, March 3, 10, &17 in Room 20

> Self-Examination Repentance Prayer Fasting



HOLY WEEK

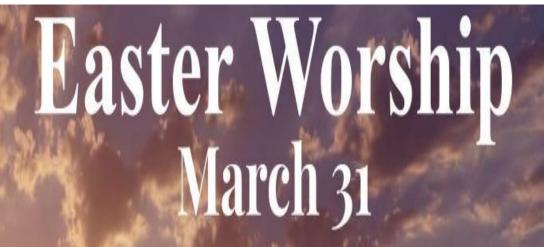
at Cross of Christ











7:30 a.m.
Traditional Service with Holy Communion and Special Music

9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Traditional Service with Holy Communion

Special Music with Capital Brass Ensemble,

Proclaim and Soli Dei

In-Person and Streamed Live

www.cross-of-christ.org