

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Mentz, *Pastor*

Rev. Suah S. Deddeh, *Assistant Pastor of Welcoming & Outreach*

Roberto Vela, Esq., *Organist*

Feast of St. Matthias



And they (eleven apostles) cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles (Acts 1: 26).

Welcome!

We thank God for this time together! If you are worshipping with us for the first time this morning, we extend a very special welcome to Holy Cross. We are happy and grateful that you have joined us to worship God and celebrate His love. May God bless your worship with us, and please be assured that your presence among us is a blessing.

Celebration of Communion

Lutherans believe that in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ are received with the Bread and Wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Baptized Christians who confess their sins to God, desire to live a new life in Jesus Christ, and affirm this statement of faith, are invited to celebrate this Sacrament with us. If you have any questions regarding Communion, please speak with Pastor. We also invite children to come forward to receive a blessing.

Worship Guidelines

As a sign of respect to our Lord and to those around you, we ask that you follow these simple rules during worship:

- 1) Make certain your cell phone is silenced.
- 2) Once seated, please refrain from talking with those around. Voices travel!
- 3) Please try to minimize trips outside the sanctuary while the service is being

+ 7th Sunday after Epiphany+

Feast of St Matthias

February 24, 2019 9:30 a.m.

Divine Service II

Prelude

STAND

✠ *In acknowledgement of our Lord's presence and
as a reminder of His work on our behalf,
please turn and face the Processional Cross as it is carried in.* ✠

Opening Hymn

The Lord, My God Be Praised

794

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P By the mercies of God, let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to our Lord, which is our spiritual worship.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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.

C **Amen.**

Introit

P You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5).

Hymn of Praise

Father, We Praise Thee

875

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Announcements

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 66:1-2

p. 624

Epistle Reading

Acts 1:15-26

p. 909

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Alleluia Verse STAND

P Alleluia. Alleluia.

C **Trust the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths smooth** (Proverbs 3:5,6).

P Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

p. 816

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Apostles' Creed (inside back cover of hymnal)

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Shall Reign

832

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

P Eternal God and Father, we give You thanks for the blessings we share as members of Your holy Church. We thank You for bringing us into Your family and for the fellowship and love we share with one another In Your Church at large and in this Church. Lord in Your mercy,

C hear our pray.

P As people who have received new life from the Spirit, let us pray in the name of our resurrected Lord Jesus. Almighty God, giver of all things, we give thanks for all Your goodness. We bless You for the love which has created us, and which sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of your Son, our Savior, through whom You have made known Your will and grace. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the comforter; for Your holy Church; for the means of grace; for the lives of all faithful and good people; and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that you have done for us, Lord, and enable us to show our thankfulness by lives that are wholly given to Your service. Listen to our prayer, O Lord, **C and hear our cry for help.**

P Save and defend Your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Make it perfect in love and in all good works, and establish it in the faith delivered to the saints. Unite us within the Church to be a united people that we bear witness to You, the creator and redeemer of all. We pray that all divisions will be healed. Listen to our prayer, O Lord, **C and hear our cry for help.**

P Preserve our nation in justice and honor, that we may lead a peaceable life of integrity. Grant health and favor to our leaders, local, state and national. Listen to our prayer, O Lord, **C and hear our cry for help**

P Bless our homes with Your presence and joy. Keep our loved ones in the covenant of their baptism. We ask for Your love and healing for families that are divided or alienated from one another. Listen to our prayer, O Lord,

C and hear our cry for help.

P Comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Have mercy on those who are dying, that they may know the hope of the resurrection. Bring consolation to those who are mourning the loss of a dear one.

Special Prayers

Rev. Neil Ray (home); **Teresa Wilcox**, mother of Amy Minor; **Hank Stuvén** (home); **Robin Beam**, (sister of Susan Lucero); **Michelle Burrus** (at home);

Lucille Keys.

P Listen to our prayer, O Lord,

C and hear our cry for help.

P Lord, teach us to give as we have received, and to forgive as we have been forgiven. Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Gathering of the Offering

The Offertory

955

C Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace out table with Your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Service of Holy Communion

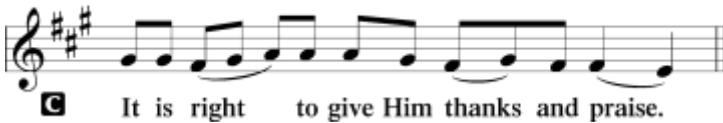
P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is good, right and proper that we should all time offer You, Father, praise and thanksgiving. For in the multitude of Your saints You have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that we might rejoice in their fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn singing:



The Words of Consecration

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, and said: Take and eat; this is † My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

In the same way He took the cup, after the supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, Drink of it, all of you; this is † My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

**C Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P Send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith so that we who receive the body and blood of Christ may live as true members of the body of Your Son.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of Your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest, until He comes as victorious Lord of all.

C Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are Yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer (inside back cover of hymnal)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Hymn of Thanksgiving (after Communion)

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what

He has done. Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-
joice and proud-ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

✘ Please turn and face the Processional Cross as it is carried out. ✘

Closing Hymn

Lift High the Cross

837

Refrain:

Lift high the cross The love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world Adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ the Son of God. **REFRAIN**

Led on their way By this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God In conquering ranks combine. **REFRAIN**

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. **REFRAIN.**

So shall our song Of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified For victory. **REFRAIN.**

Benediction

P Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Postlude

Soli Deo Gloria!

Serving with Gladness

Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Mentz, *Pastor*

Asst: Rev. Suah Deddeh **Organist:** Roberto Vela, Esq.

Altar Guild: April Tanter & Diane Graves

Lector: Jim Ittenbach **Counters:** Lorrie Lauer & Shirley Lee

Greeter: Ann Burt **Communion Assistant:** Mindy Ittenbach

Ushers: Paul Commins & Ebenezer Emmanuel

The Flowers

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Virginia in honor of Pastor's 25th anniversary at Holy Cross Church.

Eternal Candle

The Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for His many blessings by Ebenezer and Silva Emmanuel.

Anointing service this morning!

Town Hall Meeting – March 3

A special Town Hall meeting will be held next Sunday, March 3, following morning worship. Breakfast will be served.

Men's Bible Study and Lady Bug Meeting

Due to the special Town Hall meeting next Sunday, the men and women Bible studies will be moved to the following Sunday, March 10.

Holy Cross 75th Logo

We are looking for a logo for our 75th anniversary celebration! Get our your crayons, pens, pencils and paint and come up with a design (8.5 X 11). Please turn in your creative artwork by **March 3**.

Important Dates

Town Hall Meeting - March 3

Ash Wednesday - March 6

Community Outreach & Easter Egg Hunt – April 13

Faith Walk – Palm Sunday April 14

Easter – April 21

75th Anniversary – August 25