



God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:17

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holy Cross Day – September 14, 2014

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Rev. Mark Bringman, Pastor

John Thickey, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION
Holy Cross Day – September 14, 2014

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

Holy Cross Day

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

PRELUDE: *Voluntary on 'The Old Rugged Cross' – Dale Wood*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

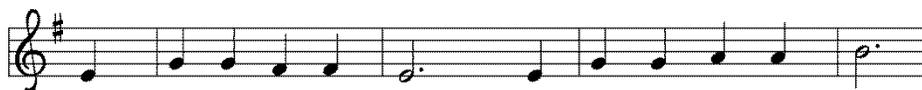
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG #660: Lift High the Cross**

***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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*THIS IS THE FEAST



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine:
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b – 9 (page 120 in Old Testament)

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

^{4b}But the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98: 1-4

1 Sing to the Lord new songs, proclaim
The marvels he has done
With his right hand and holy arm,
The triumph he has won.

3 The Lord recalls for Israel
His love and faithfulness;
To all the earth his victory
Has been made manifest.

2 The victory the Lord has won,
He has this day made known;
To all the world his righteousness
Has openly been shown.

From: A New Metrical Psalter

SECOND READING:1 Corinthians 1:18 – 24 (page 166 in New Testament)

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL READING: John 3:13 - 17** (page 94 in New Testament)

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #356: *Sing, My Tongue - Vs. 1-2 (all), Vs. 3(women), Vs. 4 (all), Vs.5 (men), Vs. 6-7 (all)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

For the whole church of God: its leaders, missionaries, youth workers, chaplains, pastors, bishops, and all the baptized. Help us proclaim Christ crucified. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all creation: seeds that are sown, fields that are harvested, winds that blow, rains that fall, animals that roam, and the fruits of the earth. Fill us with thanksgiving for these gifts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the leaders of this world: presidents, prime ministers, monarchs, parliaments, elected representatives, and heads of corporations. Inspire them to do what is right and just even if it looks foolish. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who suffer in mind and body: the bullied and the shamed, the brokenhearted and the beaten-down, the sick and the dying, especially Robert, Tim, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Heal them with the encouragement of the gospel. **Your mercy is great.**

For the mission of this congregation, it's ministries, stewardship, fellowship, outreach, homebound, children, volunteers, staff, and council. Make us a beacon of your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In thanksgiving for the blessed dead: those martyred and those who gave themselves in love, those who died alone and those who died tragically, that they, together with all your saints, be lifted up in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #691: *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring*

*OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

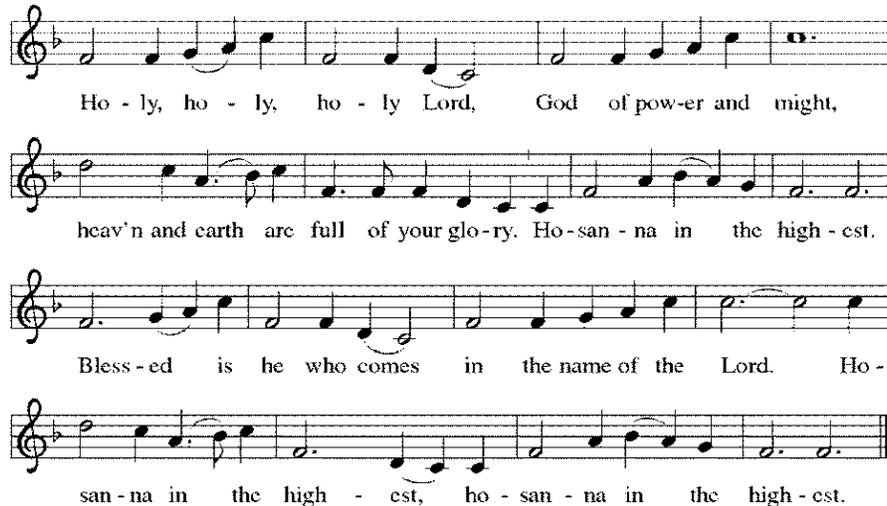
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

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 for 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 for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

***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

Everyone who hungers, come to the table. Eat what is good, that you may live.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN #471: *Let Us Break Bread Together

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

May you be strengthened by this meal of grace until all are one in the kingdom of heaven. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior.

Amen.

***DEDICATION OF VESTMENTS**

In our worship today, we dedicate, to the glory of God and the edification of God's people, vestments for Pentecost¹ and for Lent. These vestments are given in memory of Wally Strabel by Clarence, Marlene and Cliff Strabel.

All things come from you, O God;

And from your own gifts do we give to you.

(1st Chronicles 29:14b)

Show your servants your works.

And splendor to their children.

Prosper the work of our hands.

Prosper our handiwork.

(Psalm 90:16 - 17)

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you that you have put into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, in many and various ways, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as these vestments are set apart to your praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

This is the offering you shall receive from the people: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet cloth, and finely woven linen.

(Exodus 25:3)

Bless the Lord, O my Soul! O Lord, my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

(Psalm 104:1 – 2)

Gracious Lord, accept the gifts we bring, these vestments and others and use all of us, our time, talents and treasures for your will and service as we do your work. Remember all who have gone before us in faith and remind us of the promise that we shall be reunited with them at the wedding feast that has no end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***BLESSING**

The blessing of almighty God,

the Father of glory,

+ Jesus Christ our peace,

and the Spirit of truth,

be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG #324: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Postlude on 'Bourdon'* – Robert J. Powell

¹ These red vestments are also used for Reformation, Holy Cross Day and apostles' feast days.

The flowers this week are given by Marlene and Clarence Strabel.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Strabel

Attendance Last Week: 25

Weekly Budgeted Need : \$ 2,640.27

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 97,689.96

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 89,373.37

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher:

Attendance last year: 83

Last Week's Giving: \$ 4,047.00

Year to Date Receipts: \$100,602.00

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