

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Our members who are homebound or in rehabilitation/nursing care facilities: Audrey Armstrong, Shirley Gruici, Kathleen King, Fred & Ruth Wasmund, Gerry Baird, Betty Rohde, Betty Schutt, Bob Bebell, Fred Ristau, Dick & Arlene Jarvis, Vi Fraylick, Mariel Bandli, Geri Wackley, Marvin & Margaret Zoch, Myrtle Dwight, Emma Hartwell.

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Amy Stiger (friend of Mikki Boury) – completed her chemotherapy and has been given a clean bill of health!

Norma Wilka (former neighbor of Pastor & Teryl) – in Henry Ford – Macomb recovering from hip surgery.

Scott Wolf (son of Willie) – still hospitalized; recovering from surgery.

Tony Mackovski (friend of Walter & Nancy Krahn) – at home, starting acupuncture.

Erin Sevaine (niece of Joan McCoy) – facing long recovery after back surgery.

Bill Tiedeman – home but still having health issues.

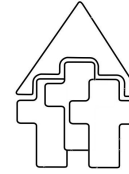
Barbara Converse (friend of Jerry Kelly & Sally Justice) – recovering from knee surgery.

WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE FIGHTING CANCER

Our Holy Cross Members – George Miller, Phyllis Ullmer, Bill Hutchens, Joan McCoy, Paul Schwan – beginning new treatment for acute myeloid leukemia.

Scott Wolf (son of Willie), Jeff Beeson (cousin of Bob Steranko), Betty Sturm (close friend of Bill & Jean Tiedeman), Dan Gleason (friend of Jerry & Dea Barham), Joann Paterson (friend of Joan VanHouteghen), Greg Seago (friend of the Coon Family), Dr. Craig Bowman (professor of Joe Llewellyn), Timothy Klopschinsky (brother of Carol Brown), Linda Steinmann (niece of Paul & Norma Meyerand), Ron Rohde (brother of Barb Rohde), Peter Bede (friend of Pete Chrest), Sandra Schultz (daughter-in-law of Nancy), Betty Moroz (friend of Pat Stewart) – recently lost a kidney to cancer and also has lung cancer, Betty Haffli (friend of Carolyn Schwan) – diagnosed with breast cancer.

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS!



We are glad you could be with us today, especially if you are visiting with us for the first time. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you. It is our hope that as you worship with us today our triune God will come to you through His Word and inspire you upwards in your life. Please stop by our Guest Welcome Center for more information and a free gift, and then join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, donuts or a bagel, and Bible Class. We pray that you will consider becoming a part of our Holy Cross family. **Both members & visitors please complete the attendance cards in the pew pockets.** This helps us to keep track of attendance, communion, etc. You may place the card in the offering plate as it is passed later in the service.

FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

We are equipped with a personal hearing assistance system. If you would like a receiver for the service, please see an usher.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PACKETS – Please ask an usher before the service to give your child an activity packet of crayons and activity sheets for use during the worship service. Please return the baggie and crayons following the service. The activity sheets may be kept by your child.

LITTLE LAMB NURSERY – Care provided for children 3 & under during Sunday services and Sunday Adult Bible study. Parents may also take their children to our Cry Room/Library which is located in a room off narthex.

CELL PHONES & PAGERS – Prior to the beginning of the service, we would appreciate your checking your cell phone and/or pager to make sure it is turned off or in the silent/vibrate mode.

A WORD ABOUT COMMUNION – The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Holy Cross on the first and third Sundays, and at all festival Sundays. Lutherans believe that our Lord's body and blood are truly present "in, with and under" the elements of bread and wine in the Supper and is given to us for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. We invite to the Lord's table those who have been **baptized** in the name of the Triune God and who have been **instructed and believe** in this confession.

If you will not be receiving the sacrament, it is acceptable for you to remain in your pew when your row is invited forward. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, we ask that you keep your hands folded and your head bowed as a sign that you will not be receiving the elements. Both common cup and individual cup are offered. For those who prefer, we offer non-alcoholic communion wine. The non-alcoholic white wine is individual cup only and located in the center of the individual cup tray.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 7, 2010

AS WE GATHER – Each of today's Scripture readings is an invitation to repent. The Lord tells Israel that it is a matter of life or death. St. Paul promises that God will provide a way out of each temptation. And Jesus tells a parable about a fruitless tree being given a second chance. God's grace is always the impetus for turning our lives around; and we see it most clearly in our Lord's journey to the cross and tomb for us.

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

LSB 915

**Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.**

**Today Your gate is open And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.**

**Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.**

**O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.**

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING

P: Having been blessed by God, we live our lives

C: Aiming, Proclaiming, and Reclaiming.

P: We are: Aiming our lives toward Christ,

C: Proclaiming Christ crucified, & Reclaiming lost lives for Christ.

P: Having been crucified with Christ it is no longer you who lives but Christ who lives in you. Go, then, and boldly live your life of faith in the Son of God who loves you and has given himself up for you.

CLOSING HYMN

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

LSB 919

**Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.**

**Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.**

**Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through Your Word.**

**Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.**

**I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursèd load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.**

**I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.**

**I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.**

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NUNC DIMITTIS (Song of Simeon) Luke 2:29-32

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

**Lord, let Your servant go, go in peace, go in peace,
My eyes see that Your Word shall not cease.
For nations there is Light; for Israel, gracious sight.
To Father, Spirit, Son, let all praises be sung,
All-gracious, merciful Three-in-One!**

THANKSGIVING

P: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

C: for His steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 118:1

P: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have fed us with the Bread of life.
Continue to support us, we pray, throughout our earthly pilgrimage until we join
saints and angels singing Your praises at the heavenly banquet; through Your Son,

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for
the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to
the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: Through the prophet Ezekiel the Lord God said, "I have no pleasure in the death of
the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back
from your evil ways, for why will you die?" Ezekiel 33:11

**C: We confess that we have failed to turn around and walk in ways that are
pleasing to You, Lord our God, but we have no strength in ourselves to
amend our sinful lives. O Lord, come to our aid.**

P: From St. Paul we learn that "no temptation has overtaken you that is not common to
man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with
the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to
endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

**C: We confess that we have not trusted Your faithfulness, O Lord, but so
often have given in to temptation. Forgive us for our failure and
strengthen us in the battle, heavenly Father.**

P: In Jesus' parable about a fig tree without fruit, the vinedresser decided to put off
cutting it down, providing time for it to bear figs the following year.

**C: We confess that we have not produced the fruits of righteousness You
expect and deserve, heavenly Father. As Your Holy Spirit has worked faith
in our hearts, for Jesus' sake, forgive us and give us new opportunities to
serve. Have patience with us, gracious Lord.**

P: God does indeed speak peace to His people for the sake of the bitter sufferings and
death of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

+ WORD +

BELL ANTHEM – 11:00 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

OLD TESTAMENT – Ezekiel 33:7-20

Turn from your wicked ways and live!

⁷ “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰ “And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹² “And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³ Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴ Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵ if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶ None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷ “Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸ When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹ And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live

AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God) John 1:29

Tune: Wondrous Love

**Have mercy on us, Lord, Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Christ, Lamb of God.
Grant to Your Church Your peace both here and ev'rywhere.
Have mercy on us, Lord, Lamb of God, Lamb of God.
Lord Jesus, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.**

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Tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION & HYMNS

“Your Table I Approach”

LSB 628

**Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.**

**Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.**

**Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.**

**Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.**

**O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.**

**Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.**

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C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

OFFERING

+ SACRAMENT +

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are You, Lord our God, for from the foundation of the world You have provided for our every need of body, soul, and spirit. You loved the world so much as to send Your only Son, our Savior, to pay the penalty for our sins and to open to us Your bountiful mercy. Grant us to faithfully eat His body and drink His blood so that we may receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. To You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory in Your kingdom on earth and in heaven.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20

P: Lord Jesus Christ, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You remind us of Your holy incarnation, life of total service, faithful journey to the cross, the sacrificial gift of Yourself there on our behalf, and Your glorious resurrection and ascension. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

PAX DOMINI (The Peace of the Lord) John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord + be with you always.

C: Amen.

by this. ²⁰ Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Warning Against Idolatry

¹ For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM – 11:00 – Jesu, Blessed Jesu – Adult Choir

HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 13:1-9

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

⁶ And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸ And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

"The Man Is Ever Blessed"

LSB 705

**The man is ever blessed Who shuns the sinners' ways,
Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorners' place,**

**But makes the Law of God His study and delight
Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.**

**He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root;
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heav'nly fruit.**

**Not so the wicked race, They no such blessings find;
Their hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving wind.**

**How will they bear to stand Before the judgment seat
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?**

**He knows and He approves The way the righteous go;
But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overthrow.**

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SERMON

NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very

God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all who are unemployed or underemployed let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord: