

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 24, 2022



“Lord, teach us to pray.”
Luke 11:1b

Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.

Sunday, July 24, 2022- Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

ELW p. 94

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Gathering Song –ELW 688 “*Lord of Light*” vs 1, 4

1 Lord of light, your name

Refrain

outshining

Father, as in highest heaven,

all the stars and suns of space,

so on earth your will be done.

use our talents in your kingdom

as the servants of your grace;

use us to fulfill your purpose

in the gift of Christ your Son:

4 By the prayers of faithful
watchers,

never silent day or night;

by the cross of Jesus, bringing

peace to all and healing light;

by the love that passes

knowledge,

making all your children one:

Refrain

Apostolic 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

ELW p. 138

Hymn of Praise:

“*Glory to God*”

ELW p. 139

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

P: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 138 ¹To you, O LORD,

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

³When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

**⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

**⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸**You will make good your purpose for me;**

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19] A reading from Colossians.

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

P: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

P: The holy gospel according to Luke. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God’s coming reign, God’s mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

¹[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”²He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

⁵And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jeff Forbes

Hymn of the Day – ELW 745 “*Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright*”” vs 1-3

1 Lord, teach us how to pray
aright,
with rev'rence and with fear.
Though dust and ashes in your
sight,
we may, we must draw near.

2 We perish if we cease from
prayer;
oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
And when to meet you we
prepare,
Lord, meet us on our way.

3 Give deep humility;
the sense of godly sorrow give;
a strong desire, with confidence,
to hear your voice and live;

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

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,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Benediction

ELW p. 146

Sending Song – ELW 742 “*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*”

1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear-- all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!	2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged-- take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-- take it to the Lord in prayer.	3 Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge-- take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer. In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We welcome you in Jesus' name to this Service of Worship. We pray that you will be blessed through the hearing of God's Word and our fellowship as people of faith. If you have any questions, please ask our ushers, and please sign our Guest Book in the narthex. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to our Interim Pastor as you leave the service. We are happy to have you with us today as we worship together!

Prayer Requests: Karen Roth; Marge Kitchen; Dianne Sherburne; the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Pastor Jeff Forbes-Interim

Pastor's Cell: 507-298-1378

revforbes@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.crossofchristhouston.org>

Church Number: 507-896-3102

Church Office Email: cofc@acegroup.cc

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

At Knights of North Castle VBS, students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the King's Armor. They will become Knights and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

After a high-energy opening assembly, the Knights make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Castle Callouts to equip the Knights for an active life with God. The Knights will discover a Banner Verse (Bible memory verse) that will remain with them in their faith long after VBS. The students will expand on what they've discovered by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring wonders at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Knights will hear about our mission project and their response to a call for action!

Join us at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 7 through Thursday, August 11 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Dinner will be served before VBS beginning at 5:30.

To register students, volunteer to help, or to find out more about Knights of North Castle, call the church office at 507-896-3102 or visit the church website at www.crossofchristhouston.org.



Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement

To give electronically, please search "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" create account or download app.

Contact the church office with any questions.

Ushers Needed: Have you ever wanted to serve as an usher at church? We are looking for families or friend groups to serve as ushers for our services. Two or more people from a family or group can sign up for one or a group of Sundays. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the church office at cofc@acegroup.cc or 896-3102 or Jim Edwards at 896-2386 to volunteer to usher. Those students in confirmation or going into confirmation next year could use ushering as a service event for their confirmation requirements.

Bingo Sign Up

We are looking for Bingo volunteers for Houston Hoedown July 29,30 and 31st. Volunteers may sign up for 2-hour sessions for Friday 5-7, Saturday 12-6 or Sunday 1-4. Confirmation-aged students also could use this activity to fulfill one of their service requirements for confirmation. Please contact Jim Edwards at 896-2386 or the church office at 896-3102 or cofc@acegroup.cc to fill times.

Looking Ahead.....

July 27 Lawn Chair concert series

August 1 & 3 Meet Up and Eat Up

August 3 Communion Prep/Server Orientation Class

August 7-11 Knights of North Castle Vacation Bible School

AT CROSS OF CHRIST THIS WEEK: 7/24/22-7/31/22

TODAY: 8:30 In Person Worship Stone Church
10:15 In-Person Worship Cross of Christ w/Facebook Live
12-5 Hoedown Queen Judging

MONDAY: Pastor's Day Off

TUESDAY: 11:15 Meet up & Eat up

WEDNESDAY: 11:15 Meet Up & Eat Up
11:00 Prayer Group
12-6 Blood Drive

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY: 8:30 In Person Worship Stone Church
10:30 Hoedown Queen's Tea

Keep in prayer our military personnel from the Houston Area:

Shawn Feller – U. S. Air Force	Zach Stackhouse – U.S. Army Reserves
Alex Edwards – U.S. Air Force	Jeffery VanGundy – National Guards
Tom & Heather Hegland-U.S.Air Force	Lauren Johnson – U.S. Air Force
Mike Swenson – U.S. Marines	Quentin Johnson – U.S. Marines
John Erickson – U.S. Air Force	Peter Jergenson – U.S. Air Force
Hope Stremcha – U.S. Army	Joey Snyder – U.S. Air Force
Joshua Vix – U.S. Army Reserves	Chris Meyer – U.S. Air Force
Sam Montgomery – U.S. Air Force	Andy Woxland – U.S. Navy
Jacob Rogich – U.S. Marines	Nick Skree – National Guard
Nicole Rogich – U.S. Marines	Victor Henk – U.S. Navy
Jason Hill – U.S. Marines	James Hill – U.S. Air Force
Alex Townsend – U.S. Air Force	Roy Kerrigan – Air National Guard
Gretchen Hill – U.S. Air Force	Jessica Gaustad-Ahlburg – U.S. Army
Victor Henk – U. S. Navy	

Addresses of our military personnel are needed: If you know the address of one of the above military personnel, please call Sharon Knudsen (896-2020) and give her the address. We would like to send greetings to each of our military personnel from the area