

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter/Holy Baptism
Sunday, May 15, 2022



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, May 15, 2022—Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 367 “*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*” vs 1, 2 & 4

1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:

"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"

Be to the Father, and our Lord,

to Spirit blest, most holy God,

all the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Eternal is the gift he brings,

therefore our heart with rapture sings:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Now still he comes to give us life

and by his presence stills all strife.

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God’s intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus’ testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

P: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD^l from the heavens;
praise God^l in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD,^l all you angels;
sing praise, all you^l hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD,^l sun and moon;
sing praise, all you^l shining stars.

**⁴Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

**⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

**⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

**¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

**¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

**¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

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: John 13:31-35

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

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jeff Forbes

Hymn of the Day – ELW #452 “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death” vs 1-3, 5

1. Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light; so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.
2. To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release, to give the Spirit's unity the very bond of peace.
3. There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God who made us all.
5. For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife. Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Prayers of Intercession

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

Sharing the Peace

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Institution

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**

Distribution

Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

ELW p. 146

Sending Song – ELW #389 “*Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*” vs. 1, 2 & 5

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

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!

Baptized during worship today is Griffin Lee Wieser, son of Adam and Jenna (Kildahl) Wieser. Griffin's sponsors for baptism are Peter Kildahl and Olivia Lamke.

Baptized today at a special service at 1:30 p.m. is Adaline Grace Marshall, daughter of Tyler and Allison (Halverson) Marshall. Sponsors for Adeline are Matthew Marshall, Amanda Marshall and Kerri Jahnke.

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.

Confirmation pictures: Confirmation students may pick up their pictures from Ross Himlie on the table in the Narthex.

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.

If you are still using the GivePlus Mobile app, you will need to change to the Vanco Mobile app. The GivePlus Mobile app will no longer work after April 30.



Ushers Wanted: 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. 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.

AT CROSS OF CHRIST THIS WEEK: 5/15/22-5/22/22

TODAY: 10:15 In-Person Worship Cross of Christ-Holy Communion
10:15 Facebook Live-Cross of Christ Worship

TUESDAY: 6:00 Church Council

WEDNESDAY: 11:00 Prayer group

SUNDAY: 10:15 In-Person Worship Cross of Christ
10:15 Facebook Live-Cross of Christ Worship

Looking Ahead.....

- May 22 Senior Recognition Sunday
- May 25 Stone Church Cleaning
- May 27 W/ELCA at Stone Church
- May 29 First Sunday for early church at the Stone Church

Area events and suppers: May 15: Pilot Mound from 11-1; May 18: Rushford Lutheran Spring Luncheon from 11-1

Rummage Sale Report: The Stone Church and St. Peter's Cemetery Association had a successful rummage sale on Friday April 29 and Saturday April 30. We want to thank everyone for their help and generous support. We had a lot of donated items that sold quickly. All unsold items were taken to Goodwill. Thanks to Cross of Christ for the use of the drive-up space.

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.

Root River Market Fundraiser: Today, May 15, from 1-4, the Root River Market Cooperative Board of Directors will be sponsoring a "fund raiser" for the Market, complete with live entertainment, free snacks and beverages, door prizes and a silent auction. This event will be held at the Hoedown Fest Grounds.