

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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Rev. Jim Berggren

April 20, 2025

Easter Day

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

Thine Is the Glory

ELW 376

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: *Amen.*

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: *Amen.*

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

Most merciful God,

C: *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.*

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of V Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: *Amen.*

PASTORAL GREETING

THE KYRIE

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also, with you.**

P: Let us pray, together.

C: *God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

April 20, 2025 – Easter Day

FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:17-25

The Glorious New Creation

¹⁷“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the child shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.²³ They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their children with them.²⁴ Before they call, I will answer, while they are yet speaking, I will hear.²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, says the LORD.”

The word of the Lord.

*Congregation response following the reading is: **Thanks be to God!***

THE PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The word of the Lord.

*Congregation response following the reading is: **Thanks be to God!***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia,
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 24:1-12

The Resurrection of Jesus

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which, they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; ⁵ and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.” ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Mag’dalene and Jo-an’na and Mary the mother of James

and the other women with them who told this to the apostles;¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregational response: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTUBE VIDEO –<https://youtu.be/3LrG69XXiJ0>

Sermon Rev. Jim Berggren

EASTER C 4-20-25 - SURPRISE ...

Road trips with pre-school children are always a hoot. We gave each boy a roll of quarters and they had to pay a quarter to ask, “Are we there yet?” They would not have to pay if they asked the question, “Where are we?” That answer would be information....a highway and mile marker number. They learned to read maps and decide for themselves how close to “there” we were.

Back then, since only adults had cell phones, and they were the size of battlefield walkie talkies, we sang lots of songs. Even making up new verses. One of their favorites was “Jesus Christ is Risen Today,” because at the end of each line they got to laugh hysterically. “Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, lay-lu-hoo-ya.” I always felt that at Easter, there was something very appropriate about that uninhibited laughter.

One day Josh threw us a curveball request out of his personal repertoire. “Can we sing the song about growing roses in gravy?” Oh yeah? I didn’t see that one coming!!

“Well of course. Can you sing it for us and teach us that one?”

“Sure, “Up from the gravy, a rose. It will smell really sweet to your nose.” I never thought of gravy as fertilizer.

Since Josh did such a bold rewrite on that hymn, I took the liberty, of correcting its lyrics theologically. As Paul so logically points out in 1st Corinthians 15:13-15, if He didn’t die, what’s the point of incarnation and resurrection. “Arose” implies that he got himself up after a rest. He hit the snooze button for a couple of days and then woke up hungry and split for the diner. Jesus didn’t “arose.” He WAS RAISED by the power of God Almighty. Lifted out of the dead, mindless, Stygian darkness of nothing.

Easter is inconceivable. If there would have been an inkling of a suspicion of the events of that Resurrection Sunday morning, the disciples would have been there with a brass band; a Herodian SWAT team would have set up sniper nests, and Pilate would have deployed a hundred hand-picked troops bristling with blades. The best-informed players with the best intelligence networks in this drama, anticipated absolutely nothing, except business as usual. Jesus was, without a doubt, obviously dead and buried; and then.....Surprise!

After all, we are very familiar with how this world works. We have mapped and charted it extensively. There's good stuff and there's bad stuff. We try to embrace the good and avoid the bad and then you begin to wonder about that big finality. Even on our best day, we are fairly ambiguous about it. It is hard to have a definitive opinion about the unknown.

Our comfort zone is basically our reality tunnel which is a tiny navigable matrix, zone, that we assume addresses the better part of our world. We perceive in the average vibrational wavelengths between mosquitos and blue whales. But the infinitesimally narrow spectrum of which we are actually aware, barely sees the world in which we live, not to mention the vastness of all creation, and the eternal joy of the Kingdom of God. The possibility of an Easter Surprise is outside our wildest imagination. My best guess is that the physical receptors necessary to fully know the Kingdom of God and Celebrate the Feast that has no end are growing now in life's experiences, but don't really kick in full tilt until after bodily death. After all we speak of the peace that passes understanding. Leaves understanding in the dust, literally. Surprise!!

Who knows? Maybe a caterpillar can't even 'see' butterflies. It is programmed genetically to dodge any over-flying shadow which, because of the process of natural selection, is likely to be a predator. The shadow could be a gliding sister butterfly, that matured earlier, but to your average caterpillar it is still the shadow of death.

Otherwise, the worm just plods on through the same reality that we do. Discovering itself here, it notices scarcity and plenty. While working hard for plenty, it notices that stuff runs out and we run down. One day all the leaves will be eaten and hunger will set in, and feeling the grinding entropy of 16 old and arthritic knees, mentally exhausted from the vigilance of anticipating being eaten, there is only one thing left. Run away and hide. Have a burial plan. Build a cocoon, crawl in, and give it up, reconcile oneself to the undeniable finality; disintegration: And then.....Surprise! Out of the soup it is raised.

Easter is amazing! We celebrate a surprise that we know nothing about precisely, because it's a surprise. For now, our best guess about Easter is Good Friday. Good Friday sits at the pinnacle of the old formula that the world runs out,

runs down, and we run away. That's okay. It is purposive. It, like history, has a beginning and an end. Each of us has our own way of getting there, but in the final analysis it is still the burial plan writ large. And then.... Surprise!

What else can I say? I'm not going to feed you a line of schmooze about harps and wings and a J.S. Bach and Jimi Hendrix Reunion Concert. I couldn't with a straight face, brag on bebies of bathing beauties or Jacuzzis of Key Lime Smoothies. One could wax eloquent about flying Harleys, teleportation, and transmigration of consciousness into other lifeforms, or transhuman cyborg avatars, the latest techie eternal future. While attempting to describe the indescribable, everyone promotes their favorite ecstasies that transcend the old formula, "Run out, run down, run away."

It is enough to affirm that everything in life has purpose. Events, however we define them, lead to a future in God. What is coming is better than you could ever imagine or possibly anticipate. You will be surprised!

Check out Revelation 21:5. "See, I make all things new." God will be with you. He has a 7777 thread-count hanky wiping your tears and holding your pain and grief. Set worry and fear aside. Death is dead! It's a new (not reconstituted, not renovated, not resuscitated, but re-created) earth and heaven. Trust the process. Trust God.

Everything by which we reach self-definition, and individuation, and awareness, and response, is helpful but not the last Word. Run down, run out, and run away are preliminaries.... penultimates Here's the new formula:

DEATH IS DEAD, LIFE IS ETERNAL, GRACE ABOUND!!!

"And He who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." SURPRISE! Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

APOSTLES' CREED

P: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C: 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 Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PEACE (Please share the Peace with a neighbor)

THE OFFERING

"The Easter Song"

Anne Herring

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW Hymn 142

THE OFFERING PRAYER

All pray together: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have, mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

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 forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in Eternal Life.

POST COMMUNION SONG *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ, we pray.

Congregation: Amen.

THE BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

ELW 365

GO IN PEACE, IN SERVICE

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 19:14

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*



- ♣ **Lynn Ballard**
- ♣ **Alberto Basurto**
- ♣ **Bill Carty**
- ♣ **Glenda Chavez**
- ♣ **David Dupleth**
- ♣ **Maureen Fredrickson**
- ♣ **Anna Gardner**
- ♣ **Fred Gardner**
- ♣ **Eliseo Gonzales**
- ♣ **Mike Hodges**
- ♣ **Nancy Lancaster**
- ♣ **David Magrill**
- ♣ **Kenneth Magrill**
- ♣ **Tracy Makris**
- ♣ **Gloria McGarvey**
- ♣ **Jeremy Mitchell**
- ♣ **Geraine Moore**
- ♣ **Dorothy Preuss**
- ♣ **Steve Schulze**
- ♣ **George Schwalm**
- ♣ **Jaime Urbanski**



Next

COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting will be Sunday, **April 27th**, 2025
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

USHERS

Month: April

Team # 06

Leader: John Wenger

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

APRIL

- 6 Reader — Scott Wegner
P/E — John Stokes
- 13 Reader — Ruby Schaper
P/E — Jay Byerly
- 20 Reader — Charlotte Jaster
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer
- 27 Reader — Alma Byerly
P/E — Steve Schulze

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Each week after Sunday service there is a Coffee Hour in the FLC.

Coffee, tea and even hot chocolate are provided.

Please sign up to bring goodies (cookies, coffee cake, etc.) to snack on.

The sign-up sheet is in the FLC.

Thank you.

EASTER SERVICES

Easter Day	April 20
Easter Sunrise service	7:00 am –WC
Easter Breakfast	8:00 am –FLC
Pre-service Organ Concert	9:00 am --WC
Traditional Worship service	9:30 am –WC

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will **NOT** be meeting on April 19,
because it falls on Easter weekend.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, **May 17**.
We will have a pot-luck at the church.

Nancy Beamesderfer

SAFEGUARDS SAFETY TRAINING
HOLYCROSS COUPON CODE FOR 15% DISCOUNT: HCLC2025

CLASS	DAY	DATE	TIME
Adult CPR *CPR only (\$79) *CPR + First Aid (\$92)	Sunday	4/13/2025	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	5/18/2025	1 pm — 4:30 pm
	Sunday	6/15/2025	1 pm — 4:30 pm
Adult & Pediatric CPR *CPR only (\$85) *CPR + First Aid (\$99)	Saturday	4/5/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	5/10/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	6/7/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	6/21/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
Basic Life Support (for Healthcare Providers and Professional Rescuers) (\$89)	Friday	4/4/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	4/12/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	5/9/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	5/17/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	5/24/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Friday	6/6/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	6/14/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
CPR Instructor Course (\$299)	Saturday	5/3/2025	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Friday	5/30/2025	9 am — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	6/28/2025	9 am — 5:30 pm

Classes are in the Youth Room, Media Room and in the Annex.

You can sign up online for classes by going to

www.safeguards-safety.com and choosing “Register for Classes.”

Or call 713-854-8085 for more information

Congregation members and their families will receive a discount of 15%
for any class by using the above-mentioned coupon code when signing up.

John Lambeth

