

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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Rev. Jim Berggren

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

With High Delight Let Us Unite

ELW 368

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: *Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*
Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

May 4, 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6

The Conversion of Saul

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he journeyed, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. ⁴ And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; ⁶ but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

The word of the Lord.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 30

SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, “To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!” ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 21:1-19

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tibe’ri-as; and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathan’a-el of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zeb’edee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any fish?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So, they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work,

and sprang into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus and Peter

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God.) And after this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregational response: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTUBE VIDEO – <https://youtu.be/YtlfQR2Svo8?si=tFPY3Sry8FK6LFtb>

EASTER 3C, 5-4-25, John 21.1-14

Here's Your Sign

As we say in the south, "Bless his heart." Don't play Chess with John the Revelator. He doesn't have an end game. John simply cannot do endings well. There is always more that he wants to say.

He finished his first letter and then added an 8-verse epilogue with one last bit of advice, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." His 2nd and 3rd letters to the church are finished, and then he adds that, he would love to write a whole lot more, but he'd rather speak face to face. He finishes Revelation and then adds a 14-verse epilogue with warnings and benedictions. The last verses of his Gospel in John 20. "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book, but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing, you may have life in his name." Period, Amen, The End. "Oh Yeah." And then John 21: "P.S. Here is a fish story that you just have to hear." The beloved disciple can't stop telling us about wonderful it is, to be loved by Jesus, to be with Him.

It wasn't easy being a disciple. 3 years of walking all over the countryside, and then your beloved teacher gets himself killed. By dangerously powerful and vindictive elites. Slammed with a double-whammy of terror and grief, you get two days to process a death, before it becomes moot, with the Resurrection, which is frankly, mind-boggling. Even if the outcome is overall good, we are still talking immeasurable post-traumatic stress. How much reconstruction of your entire world view can you handle? Their old world is gone. The new world is confusing and unknown. For them, they need a strategic withdrawal, (never say retreat) to a known comfort zone. The soothing rocking of the waves. They safety of being out of range of arrows and spears. The motherly odor of the sea. The muscle memory of throwing nets. The manageable hopes and disappointments of the outcome of the catch. And then a stranger shows up on the shore, hollering at them and trying to tell them how to fish.

The man on the shore asks them a dumb question.....

On the red-neck comedy tour along with Jeff Foxworthy, Ron White and Larry the Cable Guy, is a comedian named Bill Engvall. His stock in trade has to do with dumb questions with obvious answers, followed by snappy rejoinders, and the punch line, "Here's your sign!" Presumably the sign is to warn people about you.

"Izzat y'all's pie-anner?" "Nope, it's a coffee table with buck teeth." Here's your sign.

"Grandma died. She was 104." "How'd she die?" "Hey, she was 104...she wrecked her Harley during bike week. OK?" Here's your sign.

"You walkin' yer dog?" "Nope, I was walkin' this here leash, and that animal just now crashed into it." Here's your sign.

"Ya gotta flat tire?" "Nope. 'S'drivin' around in this Texas heat, and the other 3 tars swole up on me...heat 'll do that." Here's your sign.

"You goin' fishin'?" "Nope. Battery on the Bronco's dead. Thought I'd push it to work with the boat." Here's your sign.

And after a night of empty nets, Jesus hollers from the shore, “Hey fellas, catchin’ anything?” “Nope. Just practicin’ for when after they ever stock up this here lake.” Here’s your sign.

John added this chapter to show, once again, proof of the Resurrection. If there is any doubt, we can be assured that Scientist Thomas is there to insist on concrete objective evidence.

Jesus hollers. Jesus spots a weird school of fish 100 yards away. Jesus starts a fire. Those are totally human activities. Chef Jesus cooks a fish breakfast. Jesus eats breakfast with his best friends. Sharing food is totally human. Hallucinations don’t do that stuff. There’s your sign, Bubba!

This story is full of amazements. Peter is vindicated in several ways. Following Thomas’s lead, Peter decides to get most of the disciples back out into the world, even if it just starts with fishing. When John identifies Jesus from the boat, Peter puts on proper clothing to meet the Master and jumps out of the boat. It doesn’t say he swam 100 yards. Maybe with renewed faith, he sprinted across the waves to see Jesus. Nothing wrong with his faith this time. In the last section of this chapter, Peter professes his love for Jesus three times. This neutralizes his 3 denials of Jesus during the trial, undoubtedly a matter of ponderous guilt in his life. He gets back in the boat to help his friends with the catch.

And about that catch.....153 fish? Numerologists have had a heyday with that number. Like, it is the sum of all the numbers between 1-17. And 17 is 10, the number of completions, plus 7, the number of perfections. OK. Some say that it is the number of known nations in the world, back then. Some say that is the number of known species of fish, and that Jesus was the best fisherman ever, because he miraculously coaxed into the net, 153 different fish in one cast. OK. Seriously.

When you are fishing with a net you are looking for schools of feeding fish. In the Sea of Galilee, small fish, herring, processed into sardines were common. There is nothing extraordinary with catching 153 herring in a net. A strong man could pick them out of the water with one hand. The net would weigh more than the fish. Not even enough little fish to bother counting.

On the other hand, 153 five-pound fish, 765 pounds worth is too heavy for a whole crew to haul over the gunwales. You have to drag’em to the nearest shore, sort’em out, and obviously count them. There is not a fisherman in the universe, that wouldn’t count that catch just for bragging rights.

Jesus was re-calling his disciples. The original call to Discipleship was in Luke, chapter 5. First a failure fishing trip and then wild success. This fishing trip is again, a bust, and then a gonzo amazing success; a re-commissioning. And a celebration meal. A holiday. A communion.

The inception of Jewish religious holidays seems to follow a pattern: 1. They tried to kill us, and almost succeeded. 2. With a miracle of God, we survived. 3. Let’s eat. Remember. Celebrate with Praise!!! They killed him on the cross. He was raised. Breakfast on the beach.

It is a beautiful fact that so many of the post-Resurrection appearances include food. Food is an ideal blessing. Both eating and Jesus are necessary for true authentic life. We eat together. We share the Lord who is in our midst. The Third Sunday of Easter should be designate as a feast day in the Christian church. Why not? Have an outdoor service on this day with a Fish Fry Worship and Communion. Sharing food makes us human. Eating together we discover the Risen Lord in our midst! And we rise from despair into hope and joy.

The Risen Lord changes us, not only through comfort, although he gives us that. And not only through wisdom, although his wisdom is the greatest. And not only through blinding miracles. Even the daily ones are more sustaining.

The Risen Lord changes us by enlisting us, by giving us a re-commissioning, a goal, to joyfully proclaim his love, and a community, a place in which to work.

This is not a Last Supper Reprise. It is a First Breakfast Renewal. It is not the last meal of our old life. It is the first meal of our new life!

“Y’all catch all them fish?” “Nope, just talked ‘em into jumpin’ in the net.” Here’s your sign. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666

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

“Jesus Rose”

Carol McClure

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW Hymn 142

THE OFFERING PRAYER

All pray together: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

Congregation: Amen.

THE BLESSING

SENDING SONG

You Servants of God

ELW 825

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**
- ♣ **Darlene Fournier**
- ♣ **Maureen Fredrickson**
- ♣ **Anna Gardner**
- ♣ **Fred Gardner**
- ♣ **Eliseo Gonzales**
- ♣ **Mike Hodges**
- ♣ **Wendy Lambeth**
- ♣ **Nancy Lancaster**
- ♣ **David Magrill**
- ♣ **Kenneth Magrill**

- ♣ Gloria McGarvey
- ♣ Jeremy Mitchell
- ♣ Geraine Moore
- ♣ Dorothy Preuss
- ♣ Wayne Schaper
- ♣ Steve Schulze
- ♣ George Schwalm
- ♣ Glenda Suarez
- ♣ Jaime Urbanski



Next

COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting will be Sunday **May 25th**,
at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

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.

USHERS

Month: May

Team # 03

Leader: Linda Cuzzort

LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS

MAY

- 4 Reader —Mallory Hileman
P/E — Julie Kilkenny
- 11 Reader — Ike Thompson
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer
- 18 Reader — Alice Braun
P/E — Sharon Wagner
- 25 Reader — Russell Richter
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

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

Nancy Beamesderfer

*A Thank You note from the **GIRL SCOUTS**:*

Our troop wanted to give thanks to Holy Cross Church for giving us a safe place to meet.

On Sunday April 6, we left cookies for you all to enjoy and a Thank You note in the Family Life Center.

Monique Partida

We Celebrate the Election of the HCLC Officers — 2025

Council Officers

(1 year term)

President: Stephen Schulze

Treasurer: Ricki Finstad

Secretary: Julie Kilkenny

Council Members

(2-year term) Anita Cooper, Wendy Lambeth, Russell Richter

(1 year term) Penny Schick (appointed by 2025 Council to fill remaining
term of Stephen Schulze)

(returning Council members -with 1 year remaining)

Jay Byerly, Hans Sunder

Nominating Committee

(1 year term) John Cooper, Tangie Cooper, Debbie Pruitt, Warren Schick

Endowment Committee

(2-year term) Ken Dinges, Marilyn Flick

(returning Committee members -with 1 year remaining)

Pat Boessling, Sharon Wagner

Many thanks to all the candidates who ran for office, to outgoing members of Council: Leigh Rothharpt, Warren Schick, Stephanie Walton; and Nominating Committee: Linda Cuzzort, Darnell Lucero, Tillie Remmert, Amy Schomburg.

And of course, thanks to all who serve in so many other capacities, often behind the scenes. Your dedicated service enriches life at Holy Cross!

New officers' terms effective April 1, 2025

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 |
| 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

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

- 9:30 a.m.** Traditional Worship service with Rev. Jim Berggren —WC
Nursery is available for small children during the service — Crib Room
- 10:30 a.m.** Coffee fellowship following the service —FLC
- 4—5 p.m.** Girl Scout meeting —FLC green room

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

| 5 Mon | 6 Tues | 7 Wed | 8 Thurs | 9 Fri | 10 Sat |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>11—12 ELC Cooking for Spring party —FLC kitchen</p> | <p>11—12 ELC Cooking for Spring party —FLC kitchen</p> | <p>9 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10—12 pm ELC Program Rehearsal —WC</p> <p>11 am Choir practice —CL</p> <p>12 pm Bible Study —AT</p> | <p>10—12 pm ELC Program Rehearsal —WC</p> <p>1 pm Ruth Circle —FLCA</p> <p>8 pm AA Women mtg. —FLCA</p> | <p>10—12 pm ELC Spring Party Program—WC</p> <p>10—12 pm ELC Spring Party Reception —FLC</p> <p>1—5:30 pm SST BLS —MR/YR</p> | <p>8 am—4 pm Sons of Veterans of the Civil War meeting --FLC</p> <p>1—5:30 pm SST Adult & Pediatric CPR —MR/YR</p> <p>6 pm Saturday Informal service —AT</p> |

AT =Atrium, CL=Choir Loft, CR=Choir Room, FLC= Family Life Center, FLCA=Annex,
KiM= Kids in Motion, MR=Media Room, WC=Worship Center, YR=Youth Room
BLS=Basic Life Support, SST=Safeguards Safety Training, UCL=Upcycled Crafty Ladies