

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

7901 Westview Dr.

Houston, TX 77055

Tel. 713-686-8253

Website: www.holycross.us

e-mail: hclc@holycross.us

713-686-8254

Rev. Jim Berggren

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

The Day of Resurrection!

ELW 361

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: ***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.***

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

May 11, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

Peter in Lydda and Joppa

³⁶ Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. ⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 23

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The Multitude from Every Nation

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

¹⁵ Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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 10:22-30

Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews

²² It was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem; ²³ it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered round him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; ²⁸ and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregational response: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTUBE VIDEO – https://youtu.be/MKF7AAf_Tak?si=tQ3k74UK0KT6bk0a

EASTER 4C, 5-11-25, John 10:22-30

Which Voice do You Hear?

Which voice do you hear? Out of the hundreds of voices that confront you daily, whose voice do you listen to? The Shepherd speaks to us and finds us to bring us into his fold.

One Sunday a drunk stumbled into a group at the river doing baptisms. The deacons pulled him into the river to the preacher who was dunking people three times, to save them. The preacher shouted, “I baptize you in the name of the Father.” and shoved his head under the water, brought him back up and asked, “Have you found Jesus?” Sputtering, the man said, “No.”

He was shoved under water again, “and in the name of the Son.”. The preacher brought him up again, and asked, “Now, have you found Jesus?”

Choked and gasping, he said, “No!” He was dunked a third time, “and in the name of the Holy Ghost.” “Now, have you found Jesus?” Confused, the man protested saying, “No, where did he fall in?”

The shepherd finds us and calls us. Not the other way around.

On Mother’s Day, I fondly remember Mom and lift her up in my heart. She was a formidable pianist and organist.

One summer we went to a Central States Synod Convention in Denver. We were sightseeing in the mountains when our ’58 Ford sedan had two flat tires near Blackhawk and Central City, Colorado.

While waiting for the repairs we walked into town to find Dad a beer. We discovered the bar that was famous for the “Face on the Barroom floor.” It was a painting on the floor, associated with an epic poem telling a tragic story. Mom saw the ranky-tank upright piano, and sat down, starting in with “Kitten on the Keys.” She soon had the place swinging with everything from boogie-woogie to Irish folk songs.

Management offered her a job, but she demurred saying that she had to get home to play the organ on Sunday. She had a choice. She heard her Lord’s voice.

She was a passionate music teacher inspired by a man named Walter Damrosch, who directed the New York Symphony and helped to found Carnegie Hall. At a time when school systems rarely taught music, he was a pioneer in using the radio to popularize and teach classical music.

From 1928 to 1942, NBC helped him host programs featuring lectures and performances broadcast during school hours, and provided teachers textbooks and worksheets. Mom was a big fan both as a student and a young teacher.

Damrosch always started his program with “Good morning, my dear children.” One day he was the program at a school assembly. Without introduction he came out on the stage and said, “Good morning, my dear children.” The hall erupted in clapping and cheering.

He asked, “Why do you cheer? You don’t know who I am.”

The children shouted, “Yes, we do. We know your voice.”

A lot of voices compete for our attention. In our Gospel for the day, the leaders of Jerusalem don’t want people to listen to Jesus. They want their voice to dominate. It is a voice of fear and corruption.

John describes a very cold day, psychologically, historically and weatherwise, too. It was the Feast of Dedication, it was winter, and Jesus was walking in Solomon’s porch of the temple. A cold winter day is described with a brisk northwest wind blowing that is blocked on the lee side of the temple, the covered eastern porch.

Jesus, by simply walking to teach is an affront to the leaders of the Temple, for good reason: It is too cold to sit and teach like the rabbis, so instead he walks and teaches in the style of Socrates, and the Greek philosophers. The teaching is the most important thing, regardless of weather conditions. But the rabbis do not appreciate this profane cultural innovation. It smacks of sacrilege.

Compounding the tension, this is an old porch with a great deal of historical significance. In 586 BC, this structure was the only thing left after the destruction of the temple, during the siege of King Nebuchadnezzar.

The Feast of Dedication was celebrated after the Maccabean revolt in 165 BC, against the Greeks who had destroyed and repurposed the Temple for the worship of Zeus. The porch remained, and the rebuilt temple was purified.

It is Jesus’ voice that is being heard on a cold day during the anniversaries of two major rebellions. The leaders of the establishment surround Jesus and demand answers. They coldly insist on self-incriminating answers to leading questions.

They fear a possible revolt, and they hope to catch Jesus and not let him get away this time. This would be about the third time in a year and a half that they have had their chance and they hope to make good on silencing his voice. They don't. Their voice is not heard or followed and history repeats itself in 70 AD, with the destruction of the whole temple by the Romans. The voice of love and mercy still waits for us to be ready to hear.

In the development of our brains, there are times when we are imprinted with roles and behaviors. They are times of rapid growth, knowledge, socialization and development. Ducks follow their mother in a line. If she is not there, they will imprint on a human, or a dog. Experimenters have imprinted ducks to basketballs, which seems a little cold.

An African expedition found an orphaned baby giraffe. They fed it and weaned it from the back of a jeep, where they could stand and comfortably feed it. When it reached maturity, there wasn't a safe jeep in the compound. It knew the voice. It knew where the love was. It knew where it could get sustenance.

We know the way, and the truth and the life. As sheep of the Good Shepherd, we seek to be imprinted on the voice of the Good Shepherd. Sometimes there are so many false and exploiting voices, that it is hard to hear. There are voices of materialism, and voices of conspiracy and greed. There are voices of manufactured conflict, and the tempting efforts of pseudo-Christianity and triumphalism. There is the voice that says, "I can make it on my own, and don't need to bother God."

The voice of Jesus calls us with love and mercy into a better way than revenge. He knows us and shows us a new way of dealing with a difficult world.

The voice of Jesus gifts us with eternal life. Even though we are participants in a passing world, we live also in a permanent order.

Jesus' voice secures us also. He claims us as his special possession. No one can snatch us away from Him. Can someone opt out? I don't know. I guess, we'll have to let the voice of love and mercy decide that one.

Martin Luther once said, "I have held many things in my hands, but have lost them all. Only that which I have placed in God's hands, I still have."

The wolves of the world may snarl and rage. Cold and dark days may threaten. But neither life, nor death, nor the past or future, can separate us from the voice of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789

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

“Can You Count The Stars?”

Robert J. Powell

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ELW 502

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**
- ♣ **Bill Carty**
- ♣ **Glenda Chavez**
- ♣ **David Dukleth**
- ♣ **Darlene Fournier**
- ♣ **Maureen Fredrickson**
- ♣ **Anna Gardner**
- ♣ **Fred Gardner**
- ♣ **Eliseo Gonzales**
- ♣ **Mike Hodges**
- ♣ **Charlotte Jaster**
- ♣ **Bubba Johnson**
- ♣ **Wendy Lambeth**
- ♣ **Nancy Lancaster**
- ♣ **Kelly Langridge**
- ♣ **David Magrill**
- ♣ **Kenneth Magrill**
- ♣ **Gloria McGarvey**
- ♣ **Jeremy Mitchell**
- ♣ **Geraine Moore**
- ♣ **Steve Newberry**
- ♣ **Dorothy Preuss**
- ♣ **Wayne Schaper**
- ♣ **Steve Schulze**
- ♣ **Joel Selzer**
- ♣ **Randy Slater**
- ♣ **George Schwalm**
- ♣ **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 — John Stokes

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

LWR STAMP PROGRAM

I have received word that Lutheran World Relief
has cancelled the stamp collection program.

Holy Cross has sent many, many stamps for this program.

Thank you for your tremendous support of this project.

Sharon Wagner

CROSS WALL

New additions to the Cross Wall

In Memory of

Nelda & Delta Marburger
Those that have gone before us
Sandra Williams

Donated by

Ruth Circle
Richter Family
Barbara Neumann

NEW:
HOMEBOUND CARE PACKAGE MINISTRY

We at Holy Cross Lutheran Church are excited to start a Homebound Care Package Ministry to support our homebound church community. Our goal is to provide small gifts and essentials to uplift their spirits and show them care.

What We're Doing:

- Creating care package with items like lotion, lip balm, pens, paper, puzzle books, toothbrushes, fans, candy, socks, trial size items, cosmetics, etc.
- Pastor Jim and others will distribute these packages to individuals as they see it.

How You Can Help:

- Donate small items that can go into the care packages. Even company freebies with or without logos are welcome!
- Monetary donations are also appreciated to help purchase items. Be sure to mark your donation for Care Package Ministry.
- Help with collecting/assembling the care packages.

Drop off your donations in the basket by the sign-in sheets at church. We will check it frequently to gather contributions.

If you have questions or need help, contact

- Julie Richter julsrichter@yahoo.com; (713) 464-3430
- Shannon Martin sl.martin@comcast.net; (713) 202-0083

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

SAFEGUARDS SAFETY TRAINING HOLYCROSS COUPON CODE FOR 15% DISCOUNT: HCLC2025			
CLASS	DAY	DATE	TIME
Adult CPR	Sunday	4/13/2025	1 pm — 4:30 pm
*CPR only (\$79)	Sunday	5/18/2025	1 pm — 4:30 pm
*CPR + First Aid (\$92)	Sunday	6/15/2025	1 pm — 4:30 pm
Adult & Pediatric CPR	Saturday	4/5/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
*CPR only (\$85)	Saturday	5/10/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
*CPR + First Aid (\$99)	Saturday	6/7/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
	Saturday	6/21/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
Basic Life Support	Friday	4/4/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
(for Healthcare Providers and	Saturday	4/12/2025	1 pm — 5:30 pm
Professional Rescuers) (\$89)	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	Saturday	5/3/2025	9 am — 5:30 pm
(\$299)	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

Happy Mother's Day!

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*

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

12 Mon	13 Tues	14 Wed	15 Thurs	16 Fri	17 Sat
11—12 ELC <i>Chapel —WC</i> 7-8 pm <i>Boy Scouts mtg. —FLC room</i>	11—12 ELC <i>Chapel —WC</i>	10 am <i>Roundtable Group —VR</i> 11 am <i>Choir practice —CL</i> 12 pm <i>Bible Study —AT</i>	9:30 am —12 noon <i>LWR Quilts —FLCA</i> 8 pm <i>AA Women mtg. —FLCA</i>		1—5:30 pm <i>SST BLS —MR/YR</i> 4 pm <i>Friendship Club pot-luck —FLC</i> 6 pm <i>Saturday Informal service —AT</i>

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