

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

7901 Westview Dr.

Houston, TX 77055

Tel. 713-686-8253

Website: [www.holycross.us](http://www.holycross.us)

e-mail: [hclc@holycross.us](mailto:hclc@holycross.us)

713-686-8254

**Rev. Jim Berggren**

**May 31, 2026**

**Holy Trinity**

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## WORSHIP SERVICE

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING SONG

**Before You, Lord, We Bow**

ELW 893

### 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 Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthens 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 heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**May 31, 2026 – Holy Trinity**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a**

#### **The Beginning**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so, on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

### **Adam and Eve**

<sup>4</sup> This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

*The word of the Lord.*

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

### **THE PSALM**

### **Psalm 8**

### **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

### **Final Greetings**

<sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. <sup>13</sup> All God’s people here send their greetings.

*The word of the Lord.*

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

ELW Pg. 151

*Alleluia.*

*Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life.*

*Alleluia.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20**

**The Great Commission**

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Congregational response: Praise to you, O Christ.*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**PR. JIM’S SERMON:**



**HOLY TRINITY A,**

**5-31-2026**

**INFINITE TO INTIMATE**

“Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” Our Baptism invokes the Trinity. We confess that we believe in God from the Infinite Eternal, through the Incarnate, to the Intimate. We believe in One who is the Ground of Being, but no part of being. We believe in One who is totally enfleshed, completely mortal and so, particular, specific, and historic. We believe in One who is intimately active in our lives, in all places, all times and all possibilities. We experience God as totally other, totally mortal, and totally present in our lives, in all times and places.

I have received many snippets of good advice over the years: “Never exit a helicopter on the uphill side.” “Never shoot pool with a person named after a state.” “Keep your first serve low.” “Never shake hands with anybody from the CDC.” One nugget of advice has always been pure in its practicality, forming a DEW line (*Distance Early Warning*) in my life. “Try to keep your mind five minutes ahead of your body.” Of course, one cannot imagine, much less anticipate all contingencies five minutes into the future but a good deal of fairly solid probabilities can be assumed based on past experience, projected forward.

So, today is the Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Trinity. On one memorable Holy Trinity Sunday, our boys and I were on our way to worship God the Father, while we enjoyed the

creation of God the Son, and celebrated the protection of God the Holy Spirit. Joshua, Shane and I are grabbing a quick breakfast at the West Bellfort ‘Jack-In-The-Box’, at 07:30. The boys are wrapping themselves around some sausage croissants, while I engulf a sourdough jack and admire my complimentary free antenna ball given to us by the drive-thru server. Her nametag said Pandora: at Jack-in-the-Box? Really? Is that mythically weird or what? That should have been my first clue, that looking ahead, this might not be a normal day.

I am considering the pleasant irony of a Jack antenna ball smilingly flying above the bullet hole in the back door just behind the driver’s seat. The old Camry was a victim of a drive-by gun battle: Collateral damage from the occupants of two cars wheeling around the corner of South Post Oak and Anderson Road, leaning out their windows, shooting at each other. What can you say? The Holy Spirit protected a bunch of people that day.

When it happened, I was thrilled because I’ve always loved the scene in the movies where the doctor removes the bullet and tosses it into a metal pan and it rattles around---evidence. While the police were at the scene investigating, I tore into the door panel because there was no exit ‘wound’ and I could hear rattling in the door. I found the spent slug in the bottom of the door and gathered everyone around. I picked the lead out of the door and with great satisfaction tossed it into a hubcap so that it made that movie-rattling-noise, and said, “It’s a big’un. A 45. You want it for evidence, Officer?”

He said, “Nah.” It’s a gang shoot-out right in front of Candy’s Garden Center. He said, “We know all the actors. And we have plenty of lucky witnesses. We know where they live. We will round’em up where it is safer.”

Anyway, leaving Jack-in-the-Box, my brain is winding up to five minutes from now. I’m planning on setting up communion for the early worship service. As we pull into the parking lot, we see Archie waiting in his car. After the usual chaotic scramble of unloading three people, sandwich remnants and a briefcase, we all meet Archie, at the end of the sidewalk.

Archie says, “That’s funny, the sidewalk’s all wet.”

I say, “Yeah, and look; the lawn is muddy all the way out here to the parking lot.”

We unlocked the front door and opened it.

“Holy Tsunami, Archie, Surf’s Up!”

No amount of thinking five minutes ahead, could have anticipated this! The water was up to three inches deep inside the church building, from halfway up the classroom hall Ship Channel, through the Lamb of God Maritime Narthex, and spreading aqueously downhill halfway into the Parish Hall Turning Basin. Both offices were inundated. It was so much water that the possibility of worship was “without form and void” and would definitely require the creative Word of the Son, and the hovering of The Spirit, to conquer this chaos.

Archie dryly commented, “I think we’d better take off our shoes and socks, Pastor.”

What ultimate permission for the children.

“Daddy, daddy, can we really take our shoes off in church?”

“Please do, but don’t run around and cause any big nave waves, okay?”

I wasn’t about to argue about a new barefoot-in-church policy with Archie, a man who piloted a fighter plane over North Africa against Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox. On Archie’s bad day in Libya, he got shot down, and broke his back in the parachute descent. He was taken prisoner and being transported to a German medical unit in the sidecar of a motorcycle. They were fired upon by French allies, and his German captor became his prisoner of war. Then they changed directions and headed toward an allied field hospital.

We waded in and found the sanctuary still high and dry. Caught a nice break there. Archie found the offending burst pipe, turned off the water supply and we went to work, with brooms and squeegees, pushing gallons out the front doors.

As the early service crowd arrived, Jesus the Son, showed up, Incarnate, in every loving person determined to worship God no matter what. Nobody turned around and left. Nobody looked at the chaos water, and threw their hands up in resignation. We moved volumes of water, outside, downhill, to the north. Some took one look and left.....and came back with food and towels. Our normally nontraditional early worship service embraced innovative heights, as we engaged in a liturgy of deed, community working in love together. An impossible situation turned into a party!!!

Tommy’s squeegees kicked the operation off perfectly. Jim’s wet vac pulled gallons of water from the carpets, and Mark had water extractors with dehumidifiers and industrial fans there, within minutes. A constantly shifting crew of people swept water, and moved furniture, boxes of clothes being refurbished for donation, files and books. All that fast action saved everything, with the exception of one pressed wood bookshelf which did a vampire-in-holy-water imitation and crumbled.

Perfect music to accompany this service could have been: The prelude-- a medley of “Wipeout”, and “Surfin’ in the Narthex”. The Processional hymn, “Shall We Gather at the River.” The Hymn of the Day, “Showers of Blessing.” The Recessional hymn would be, “Heavenly Sunshine.”

But seriously, all of these wonderful people, sharers of the Incarnation with Jesus the Son, came to worship God the Father, empowered and encouraged by God the Holy Spirit. At about 08:50, I hollered, “We’re not going to cancel worship for a mere catastrophe! Let’s all meet at the altar!”

It was a sweaty, motley crew!!! Standing before the Lord God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with squeegees, brooms, mops, rags, buckets, dollies and dripping brows, we confessed, professed our creedal belief in the Trinity, spoke the Words of Institution, shared the Lord’s Prayer and then received the Sacrament of the Altar. Then a benediction and dismissal.

“Go in Peace.”

“Thanks Be to God.”

The Trinity is about relationship. We awake to God the Father, Infinite, Eternal, totally Other, at the cusp of chaos, primordial water everywhere, a mess, subject to the mystery of holy

transformation.

God the Son invokes Creation by his Word as the components of Order are assembled and differentiated. God relates in reality, historically, specifically and personally in Jesus.

God the Holy Spirit relates with present power and potential in all times, and in all places, to all people.

God is Infinite, Incarnate, and Intimate.

“Time for Sunday School and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Service!”

Splish, splash, splish, splash, and Chet said, “Hey, remember your baptism!!!” Amen.

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**God, Whose Almighty Word**

ELW 673

## **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**

**“Amazing Grace”**

W. Walker

(NEW BRITAIN)

**THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW Hymn 142

**THE OFFERING PRAYER**

**All pray together:**

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. 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:

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

### SENDING SONG

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!**

ELW 413

## 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.*



- ♣ JR Abrego
- ♣ Pat Boessling
- ♣ Enrique Franco
- ♣ Jim Fritze
- ♣ Paul Houghton
- ♣ Joyce Huey
- ♣ Bryan Kile
- ♣ Nancy Lancaster
- ♣ David Magrill
- ♣ Geraine Moore
- ♣ Ed Peterman
- ♣ Dorothy Preuss

- ♣ Lupe Romero
- ♣ Wayne Schaper
- ♣ Myrtl Slade
- ♣ Scott Spates
- ♣ Patricia Steapp
- ♣ Jaime Urbanski
- ♣ Bennie Valites
- ♣ Susan Wiles
- ♣ Michael Williams

Family and friends of Wayne Pamatagan  
upon completion of his life's mission.

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*Next*

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

Council meeting will be Sunday, **June 14**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

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## **USHERS**

**Month:** May

**Team #** 03

**Leader:** Linda Cuzzort

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## **LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS**

### **MAY**

3 Reader — Mallory Hileman  
P/E — John Stokes

10 Reader — Ruby Schaper  
P/E — Steve Schulze

17 Reader — Jay Byerly

P/E — Alma Byerly

- 24 Reader — Julie Kilkenny  
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer  
31 Reader — Alice Braun  
P/E — Sharon Wagner

P/E stands for Prayers and Eucharist

Nancy Beamesderfer

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### **ATTENTION HOLY CROSS MEMBERS**

Following the Church Safety Protocol, if you would like to make a reservation to use the church facilities for church or private events, please contact Sussy.

You must to fill out a Calendar Request Form or send an email.

Thank you.

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### **Cheers to 50 years!**

**Rev. James Berggren – Sunday, June 7**

Let's count his years by friends and supporters, not by years!

Holy Cross wishes him all the courage and confidence to shine in his own unique way for the next 50 years! And another 20 years at Holy Cross!

Please consider a donation to celebrate his outstanding accomplishments at Holy Cross and those of his vast career experiences. Donation envelopes and donation box will be next to our sign-in sheets in the Atrium. **No donation is too small.** Donations accepted through Sunday, May 31. Make checks payable to Marsha Thompson. Should you have any questions please contact Nancy Beamesderfer

(281-814-4153) or Marsha Thompson (281-935-4988)

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## **FELLOWSHIP CLUB**

The Fellowship Club will be meeting Saturday, **June 20**, at 4:00 p.m.

We will be having a pot luck at the church so bring your favorite dish to share.

Hope to see you there!

Nancy Beamesderfer

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## **CROSS WALL**

Crosses have been donated:

### **IN MEMORY OF**

Mim Wignes

Bettye Raschke

Marilyn Thigpen

### **DONATED BY**

Donated by Barbara Neumann

Donated by Wendy Lambeth

Donated by Sharon Wagner

### **IN HONOR OF**

Ernest Luker's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday 2026

### **IN HONOR OF**

Patti Portice

Donated by Prayer Pals

Upcycled Crafty Ladies

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## **VBS**

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**June 22—26, 2026**

(Mon—Fri 9:00 am — 12 noon)

**AGES 3 — Completed 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Lots of fun! Bible stories, music, crafts, science, service projects

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**

Questions? Contact Wendy Lambeth 713-854-1573

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**SUNDAY’S SCHEDULE**

**9:30 a.m.** *Traditional Worship service with Rev. Jim Berggren —WC*

*Sunday School / Nursery is available for small children during the service  
— Crib Room*

**10:30 a.m.** *Coffee fellowship following the service —Gym*

**THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS**

<b>1 Mon</b>	<b>2 Tues</b>	<b>3 Wed</b>	<b>4 Thurs</b>	<b>5 Fri</b>	<b>6 Sat</b>
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		<p><b>9 am Men's Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>12 pm Bible Study</b> -VR</p>			<p><b>6 pm Saturday</b> <i>Informal service</i> -AT</p>
			<p><b>8 pm AA Women</b> <i>mtg. -FLCA</i></p>		

AT =Atrium, CL=Choir Loft, CR=Choir Room, ELC=Early Learning Center,  
 FLC= Family Life Center = **GYM**, FLCA=Annex, KiM= Kids in Motion, MR=Media Room,  
 VR=Volunteer Room, WC=Worship Center, YR=Youth Room,  
 SST=Safeguards Safety Training (CPR classes)