

# 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

June 28, 2026

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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## WORSHIP SERVICE

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING SONG

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

### 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:**     **O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**July 2, 2023 – Pentecost 5A**

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> He said, “Amen! May the LORD do so! May the Lord fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the LORD’s house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people: <sup>8</sup> From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup> But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the LORD only if his prediction comes true.”

*The word of the Lord.*

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

### **THE PSALM Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18**

### **SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as

an instrument of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

### **Slaves to Righteousness**

<sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. <sup>18</sup> You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. <sup>20</sup> When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. <sup>21</sup> What benefits did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*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 10:40-42**

<sup>40</sup> “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## PR. JIM'S SERMON:



## PENTECOST 5A, 6-28-26, Mt 10.40-42

### PICTURE YOURSELF

“Picture yourself in a boat on a river, with tangerine trees, and marmalade skies. Somebody calls you, you answer quite slowly. A girl with kaleidoscope eyes.... Newspaper taxis appear on the shore waiting to take you away. Climb in the back with your head in the clouds and you’re gone.”

The short Gospel for today is about identity. The best way to know who you are, the best way to picture yourself, is in the face of Jesus. If you picture yourself as identified, received, recognized and welcome in the world, then Jesus is identified, received, recognized and welcome, along with God who sent him to us. And God recognizes us. He knows His Creation. Throughout all of Matthew 10, Jesus and his father God, are pictured as absolutely central to self-identity and relationships.

We might as well face it. The Latin word, *coram*, is a preposition that changed the world. It may have been one of Martin Luther’s top ten favorite words. It means, “before the face of, in the face of.” *Coram Deo* = Before the face of God. Luther struggled with the idea of who he was, what his purpose was, and how that defined his own individual conscience in the world, in his human relationships, and before the face of God.

God has a welcome face. He receives and welcomes us face to face. As we look to God and face him, he is present and we are before his face. Made in his Image, we, each of us, are claimed by him. We dare not disregard each other. It would also be an act of disrespect to God, if we choose to disrespect any fellow humans, equal in His Face.

Without a face to reflect us, we disappear. In welcoming others, we welcome God. It makes us human....the way we encounter others, and others encounter us and we face ourselves in reflection. Before the face of God, other people, and the world, we discover meaning, recognition, self-hood and purpose. We are a reflection, a created product of the faces that regard us.

We live in a pool of *coram* relationships. The big picture, the set which includes all

subsets, is *coram Deo*, in the face of the Presence which makes all other outside stuff present, the Creator God and his Creation. We also live in many other penultimate (secondary) *coram* relationships. *Coram meipso*, is in the face of oneself. How do you picture yourself? Are you friends with your picture of yourself. Do you like your picture of yourself. If you don't, YOU CAN CHANGE your picture of yourself!!

*Coram huminibus*, is before the face of others. How do they picture me? If I am not face to face with others, I have no human feedback as to my existence and the difference it makes in the world. In the face of others, we are subject to judgment; judgment that we both fear and seek. We want to know how to picture ourselves, in our own personal court of judgment, our *Coram meipso*. I welcome being in the face of others, because I am doubtful and problematic in my own eyes. We seek to be and to know ourselves in the face of others.

*Coram mundo*, is before the face of the world. Does the Universe, the Planet Earth, and the Metropolis picture me as likable or not? The Earth is the Mother of Love, and The Harsh Mistress of Life at the same time. Gravity is great. Defying it can be fatal. Bad habits might be fun, but they can kill you.

*Coram*. In the face of. That word gives a whole new meaning to “Facebook”, huh? You have ten thousand friends on Facebook? I’m impressed. How many of those faces shine upon you with graciousness? How many of those faces picture you as a reflection of Jesus.

I find it amusing that the slow-motion blood splatter of precisely choreographed gun violence is lovingly and worshipfully, shoved into our faces on a regular basis by the film industry. Witness successful movie franchises like the “John Wick” series, the “Terminator” films, or the “Matrix” group of films. Try anything by the old master of movie mayhem, Sam Peckinpah, or his acolytes, Quentin Tarantino or Roberto Rodriguez and you’ll see the graphic depictions of thousands of deaths. It makes violent maiming death appear to be normal. Preferably, of course, if you are the one dealing it out. Part of our inherent makeup, is identifying with what we face and deriving meaning and self-worth from what faces us. Funny how you face the screen and it faces you. Certainly, we each have a personal responsibility for what we consume. The marketplace adjusts to consumer preferences. The marketplace profits by knowing what we choose to face, and it feeds us accordingly. It is ironic, how an industry that thrives on depicting gun violence, vociferously deplores it, argues about it, and abrogates any responsibility for it. Is that what two-faced means?

That whole free will thing gives us the choice of which court of judgment we want to listen to. Being before the face of the world is struggling before a hard taskmaster, trying to justify oneself with works. In the words of Tennessee Ernie Ford: “Sixteen tons and what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt. St. Peter don’t you call me, ‘cause I can’t go. I owe my soul to the company store.” *Coram mundo*, in the face of the world, can be implacably merciless.

*Coram huminibus*, before the face of others, is the face of judgment, both good and bad.

One day, you face the opinion of others, seeing your villainy, and on another day, you face them seeing your heroism

There are over 400 uses of the word “face” or derivatives thereof, in the Bible. Faces are important. The faces we recognize, mirror who we are and what we mean from a position that is outside of us. We are able to discover ourselves through the faces that face us. They give us feedback. They offer diminishment or approval.

The most difficult grief adjustment of widows and widowers, is that the lifelong mirror their loved one provided is not present with immediate feedback. It is a crushing loss of information and approval; a sudden vacuum of disenfranchisement from a known shared world, face-to-face in mutual regard.

*Coram meipso.* We even invent fictional faces, situations, and relationships, to regard ourselves in new ways. “Picture yourself in a boat on a river with tangerine trees and marmalade skies.” As you face the screen of your self-opinion, your picture of who you are is called into question. Every commercial, every advertisement that you ingest, urges you to picture yourself in a different way, with a new face to the world. If the Beatles lyric is a little too obscure, simply picture yourself in that second childhood, hot sports car with the cool threads, beautiful admirers, and a wad of cash. Only one small problem there. Seems like all the people in the Bible who decided to picture themselves in a certain way, ended up making big mistakes. They forgot God’s picture of them. King David is like.... “Picture yourself as Bathsheba’s boyfriend.” “OOOPS!!” That didn’t work out too well.

Here’s a tip; God’s picture of you, before his face, works a lot better in quite a few more situations. Picture yourself as a beloved Child of God. There is the face of grace.

Without a face to regard us, to stand before, we are cursed. “How long, O Lord, will you hide your face?” With a face we are blessed. “The Lord’s face shine upon you and his countenance look upon you with favor.”

Faces give bonding and nurture and important psychic feeding at the breast, which is much more critical than the breast milk itself. God built this in as a critical component in his ingenious design of human beings. Our infant digestion is designed to handle only the lightest of nourishment and human milk is one of the thinnest of all mammals. A baby is ready to nurse between 45 to 60 times daily. Compare this to a baby rabbit who nurses once a day on milk so dense it is barely fluid, and the rest of the day, Mama Rabbit must forage for necessary nourishment.

At first glance we might think that maybe God made a slight milk mistake and ordered skim instead of whole, unless we understand the design innovation whereby Baby must be carried about constantly, with a steady supply of thin milk which requires a constant renewal of Mother’s face at a distance of six to twelve inches. Basking and feeding before the face of Mother activates our sensory and immune systems, synchronizes heartbeats, vocally soothes and teaches language, and the continuous movement provides comfort and familiarity remembered from the fetal state, plus orientation and balance in the new world of gravity.

The face of kindness is the face of grace. Matthew 10: 40-42 indicates that when you see

the face of Jesus, you have seen the face of God. When you see the face of your neighbor, you see the face of Christ. All that being said, you will become the face of kindness. For when you see yourself, it will be as a vessel of the Holy Spirit carrying life-giving cool water to those in the desert wilderness of their lives. We exist because we are re-cognized by God.

In 1970, the Rolling Stones started recording “Exile on Main Street,” in Los Angeles. While there, Billy Preston would take Mick Jagger to church for Sunday services. Back in the studio, Jagger knew that Bobby Whitlock, his keyboardist, had played in church, for his father who was the preacher. So, he asked Bobby to play something with a Gospel feel. A country, blues, swampy Gospel song emerged with a perfect 13-word chant calling attention to the main picture of everything: “I don’t want to talk about Jesus, just want to see his face!”

So.... facing facts, this has been an ‘in your face’ excursus, but remember, if you ever have to face off with someone you might as well face it.... you won’t lose face with a happy face. God’s face, picturing you, His Beloved.

Psalm 27:8. “My heart says to thee, ‘Thy face O Lord, do I seek.’” Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY    Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life                      ELW 719**

### **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 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

**Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak**

ELW 676

## 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.*



- ♣ Fred Abrego
- ♣ Pat Boessling
- ♣ Anita Cooper
- ♣ Jim Fritze
- ♣ Paul Houghton
- ♣ Joyce Huey
- ♣ Bryan Kile

- ♣ Nancy Lancaster
- ♣ Ernest Luker
- ♣ 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

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## **COUNCIL MEETING**

Council meeting will be Sunday, **July 19**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Church Council

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## **USHERS**

**Month:** June

**Team #** 04

**Leader:** Julie Kilkenny

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## **LAY READERS & ASSISTANTS**

### **JUNE**

- 7 Reader — Linda Cuzzort  
P/E — Nancy Beamesderfer

14 Reader — Ike Thompson  
P/E — Penny Schick

21 Reader — Scott Wegner  
P/E — John Stokes

28 Reader — Charlotte Jaster  
P/E — Russell Richter

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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Holy Cross Lutheran Church prides itself on giving back to our community. To continue this tradition, we have partnered with [Memorial Assistance Ministries](#) to help children get new school clothing through their [Back to School](#) program. Families living in poverty in our community often have a hard time paying the bills and feeding their children. Additional costs for Back to School, means they might fall behind on rent or bills.

We encourage our Holy Cross members and friends to join us in supporting MAM's Back to School Program. Each \$50 donation means a child will start the school year with new uniforms, ready to learn. Please consider sponsoring a child today!

If you would like to help please make a check payable to: **Memorial Assistance Ministries** (MAM) include in the memo: [Back to School Program](#). Please send or bring the check to the Church Office.

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## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar Flowers are given in Honor of the 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of  
John and La Verna Wegner  
by Their Children and Grandchildren.

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## **ASSETS AND IDEAS COMMITTEE**

The Assets and Ideas Committee (formally called the growth committee)  
will have a meeting **this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex.**

The agenda will basically be to review what we have accomplished so far  
and decide where we want to go from here.

Please bring any ideas or suggestions you may have.

Remember there is no such thing as a bad idea. If you won't be able to attend but have some ideas you would like to share, please send me an email at:

[sdsmcs@swbell.net](mailto:sdsmcs@swbell.net) and tell me what it is.

I will present your ideas at the meeting.

Steve Schulze  
Church Council President

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## **KEEP THE JULY 4<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION GOING!!**

**Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>** Potluck Lunch  
at 11:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center (Gym)

We'll provide the hot dogs — RSVP so we'll know how many to get.

Please sign-up to bring fixin's. Sides and Desserts.

(Sign-Up Sheet in the Atrium)

Questions: Contact Julie Kilkenny

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## **FELLOWSHIP CLUB**

The Fellowship Club will be meeting **Saturday, July 18,**  
at the church for a pot luck supper.

We will begin to gather at 4:00 pm and eat at 5:00 pm.

Please bring your favorite dish to share. Hope to see you there!

Nancy Beamesderfer

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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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         |                                                                 |                                                                 |       |                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29 Mon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 30 Tues | 1 Wed                                                           | 2 Thurs                                                         | 3 Fri | 4 Sat                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |         | <i>9 am Men's Breakfast</i><br><br><i>12 pm Bible Study –VR</i> | <br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><i>8 pm AA Women mtg. —FLCA</i> |       | <p><b>HAPPY</b><br/><u><b>INDEPENDENCE DAY!</b></u></p><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><i>6 pm Saturday Informal service –AT</i> |
| AT =Atrium, CL=Choir Loft, CR=Choir Room, ELC=Early Learning Center,<br>FLC= Family Life Center = <b>GYM</b> , FLCA=Annex, KiM= Kids in Motion, MR=Media Room,<br>VR=Volunteer Room, WC=Worship Center, YR=Youth Room,<br>SST=Safeguards Safety Training (CPR classes) |         |                                                                 |                                                                 |       |                                                                                                                                  |