

Holy Cross at Prayer



Palm Sunday to 6th Week of Easter, Series A

April 2, 2023 to May 20, 2023

SUNDAY (April 2, 2023)

Palm Sunday

Sunday of the Passion

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

""Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"" (John 12:15)

READING

"The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"" (John 12:12-15)

MEDITATION

Hosanna! Save us now, dear King! And so He does. But what a strange way to come into His holy city! Humble and lowly, riding a donkey, not a war horse. But God's ways are not our ways. He comes to you, clothed in Bread and Wine, and through these same humble means, God does mighty things. Save us now, dear Lord! Come to us once again and save us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Denise (Ussery), O Lord, and teach her to hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK (April 3, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God." (Isaiah 50:10)

READING

"But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant." (Hebrews 9:11-15)

MEDITATION

Jesus Christ stands between you and the just consequences of your sin. He stands between you and the punishment that we all deserve. That is why we call Jesus our high priest and the mediator of a new covenant. He stands there because we cannot. He stands there so that we are now set free to serve the living God. Now that is one powerful mediator. That is God's Son, Jesus Christ, for you.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Heavenly Father, bless Gary (Yee) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross his path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK (April 4, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

READING

"For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:19-25)

MEDITATION

Of all of the ways God could work, why does He choose the cross? It is backwards. It is weakness and shame. How can this be the work of the God who created the universe. To some this is utter foolishness, and to others they stumble over the thought of a God who works in this way. But God in His mercy works through such means, so much so that we preach Christ crucified, even if it doesn't make sense, because it is the truth of who God is and what He does for sinners such as you and me.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Bonnie (Lahde) this week. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, grant us by Your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's passion that we may obtain the forgiveness of our sins; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK (April 5, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

READING

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." (Romans 5:6-11)

MEDITATION

There it is. We were still weak, even dead in our trespasses and sins. But Christ died for us, even when we were His enemies. Don't you love that? Jesus died for those who hate Him, so that they may know the love of God, and that all their sins are paid for by His atoning death. Thanks be to God.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Kelsey (Lunsford) this day, O Lord, and show her your great love throughout all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY THURSDAY (April 6, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."
(Hebrews 9:22)

READING

"But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God." (Hebrews 9:11-14)

MEDITATION

Only Christ could pay the price for our sins. Only Christ could make things right between us and our Heavenly Father. He is the one who enters into the holy place by His blood, and who redeems us and buys us back from sin and death and hell. That is His work. That is who He is and what He does for you and me. Thanks be to God!

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Rick (Merkh) this day, as he goes about the callings you have given to him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

GOOD FRIDAY (April 7, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession."
(Hebrews 4:14)

READING

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16)

MEDITATION

Jesus does not simply say, "Tsk tsk tsk, I know how you feel." He has tasted our life. He has been tempted as we are in every way. He knows our struggles, our sorrows, our great need. And He takes it all into Himself, simply because He loves you. Draw near to the throne of grace. He knows, He hears, and He will give you mercy and grace in your time of need.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up Jack (Cross) before you this day, asking that You would give him your mercy all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY SATURDAY (April 8, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)

READING

"When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard." (Matthew 27:57-66)

MEDITATION

Jesus rests on the seventh day. This is His Sabbath rest in the tomb. His labor of dying for our sins is done. He now is at rest and at peace, finishing the work that God set Him out to do. But a new day is dawning. There is a resurrection that is coming, and when He bursts forth from the tomb, all things will truly be made new again.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Helen (Ohman). Bless her now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, creator of heaven and earth, grant that as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with Him the coming of the third day, and rise with Him to newness of life, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

Sunday (April 9, 2023)

The Resurrection of our Lord

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 16:11)

MEDITATION

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Jesus Christ, the Crucified One is also the Risen One. His death and resurrection brings us forgiveness of sins and life eternal. He has rescued us from the clutches of the evil one. He is the cornerstone of our faith and of our life. Jesus, comes today to bring fullness of joy, healing, and new life. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Let your grace be upon Jacob (Wallace), O Lord, and teach him to hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (April 10, 2023)

Easter Monday

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." (Acts 10:34-38)

MEDITATION

Peter's words are compelling. This same Peter – the one who thrice denied even knowing Christ, let alone being a witness to Him – now speaks with conviction. He speaks as one filled with the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit the Father sent to anoint Jesus at His Baptism. This same Holy Spirit comes to us in our Baptism so we too can bear witness to the good news of peace through Jesus Christ. We now may be bold like Peter in our witness!

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Heavenly Father, bless Dave (Davis) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross his path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR EASTER MONDAY

O God, in the paschal feast You restore all creation. Continue to send Your heavenly gifts upon Your people that they may walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (April 11, 2023)

Easter Tuesday

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."" (Acts 10:39-43)

MEDITATION

Peter proclaims the good news, not so much with a logical argument or debate, but with concrete facts. Facts the people can "see and hear". For to be a witness is to see, hear or know by personal experience in His presence. The disciples were eyewitnesses of Jesus' life—His preaching, His teaching, His forgiveness, His healing. This good news is for us as well. Christ is present to us in the most intimate way. We have a personal experience of His grace when we hear His Word and are fed by His holy Body and Blood.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Elaine (Olson) this week. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER FOR EASTER TUESDAY

Almighty God, through the resurrection of Your Son You have secured peace for our troubled consciences. Grant us this peace evermore that trusting in the merit of Your Son we may come at last to the perfect peace of heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (April 12, 2023)

Easter Wednesday

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4)

MEDITATION

"I have destroyed death, triumphed over the enemy, trampled underfoot, bound the strong one, and taken men up to the heights of heaven: I am the Christ. Alleluia!" - *Melito of Sardis*
Christ's victory over death is our victory. In Him we have new life, eternal life.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Robert (Brahmst) this day, O Lord, and show him your great love throughout all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR EASTER WEDNESDAY

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (April 13, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow." (Matthew 28:1-3)

MEDITATION

Easter Sunday (and all subsequent Sundays) is often called The Eighth Day. The Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) was the seventh day of the week, and Sunday was the first day of the week. With Christ's resurrection, Sunday becomes the new Sabbath. Sunday, the first day of a week, plus one, becomes The Eighth Day—the sign of the new creation being ushered in with Christ's resurrection. It is fulfillment and perfection. It is sacred time – the point where time intersects with eternity. We live in eternity now. Even our sanctuary reflects this sacred reality. Look around our sanctuary and note the eight sidedness of the altar, the baptismal font, the lectern, the altar rails. It all reflects The Eighth Day—Christ, the new Creation.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Jeffrey (Lange) this day, as he goes about the callings you have given to him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (April 14, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."" (Matthew 28:4-10)

MEDITATION

"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said...". These beautiful words of the resurrection, echo the words of the Annunciation. "Fear not", the angel speaks to Mary as she hears the astonishing news that she will bear the Holy One, The Redeemer, in her womb. "How can this be?" she asks. "Nothing is impossible with God", is the reply.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up Norb (Huber) before you this day, asking that You would give him your mercy all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (April 15, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight." (Psalms 16:1-3)

MEDITATION

Jesus' death and resurrection releases us from the snares of death. His suffering and death are our refuge. His suffering and death preserves us. In His wounds we have healing and protection. His peace is our peace. His joy is our joy. And for this we shall live and recount the deeds of the LORD.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Andrew (Zavala). Bless him now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (April 16, 2023)

Second Sunday of Easter

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31)

READING

"But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."" (Acts 5:29-32)

MEDITATION

Peter and the apostles answer to a higher authority than the Jewish legal council. They answer to God, and more specifically, the God of the Jewish people. Then Peter tells the council that they themselves killed God by crucifying Jesus. Such bold and seemingly blasphemous words coming out of Peter! But these words reflect the reality that Peter has been witness to The Truth and speaks with the authority given to him by God Himself.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon John-Paul (Meyer), O Lord, and teach him to hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (April 17, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31)

READING

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3-5)

MEDITATION

God gives us new birth to a living hope through His Son Jesus. God is a God of mercy. He is a God of eternal Love. His mercy extends as far as the east is from the west; as far as the heavens are from the depths of the sea. God's mercy is His essence, and God is unchangeable. His mercy is imperishable, undefiled and unfading. Christ, mercy incarnate, is our living hope.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Marsh (Shamburger) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross his path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (April 18, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31)

READING

"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:6-9)

MEDITATION

Rejoicing and joy that is inexpressible sure don't seem to go hand in hand with being grieved by various trials. And yet, that is what St. Peter writes. Joy is only possible when we trust in the One who suffered all for us. That joy is only possible when we are reminded in the midst of our trials, that Jesus is faithful even unto death. That joy is only possible when we begin to understand that suffering and trials are a part of this life, but they are not the end of the story. So rejoice!

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Rachel (Shamburger) this week. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (April 19, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31)

READING

"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord." (John 20:19-20)

MEDITATION

It's the day of The Resurrection and the disciples are hiding in fear for their lives. Even the good news delivered to them of Jesus' resurrection did little to quell their terror, in fact it seemed to make their fear increase. Then Jesus appears to them in His glorified body and the first words He speaks are, "Peace be with You." He speaks words to calm their fears and proclaim the new reality—they are reconciled to the Father through Jesus Himself. Jesus not only brings peace, He is peace. A peace that passes all understanding.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Zachary (Creiglow) this day, O Lord, and show him your great love throughout all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (April 20, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31)

READING

"Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."" (John 20:21-23)

MEDITATION

Jesus repeats His words of peace. Then goes on to speak the words we call "The Office of the Keys". Luther's Small Catechism puts it this way: "The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent." And of Confession: Confession has two parts. First that we confess our sins, and second that we receive absolution, that is forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Robert (Mitchell) this day, as he goes about the callings you have given to him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (April 21, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31)

READING

"Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."" (John 20:24-29)

MEDITATION

The resurrected Christ still bears in His glorified body the wounds of humanity. In Him, our wounds of body, mind and heart are transformed. "He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up David (Oschner) before you this day, asking that You would give him your mercy all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (April 22, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins." (Acts 5:31)

READING

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30-31)

MEDITATION

John, the author of this Gospel, clearly states its purpose and summarizes its central message. People commonly and mistakenly think that biblical books were written mainly to provide rules for godly living. Speaking through John, God announces the Good News that Jesus is His Son and that by faith in His name, we have life and salvation – the core message of the entire Scripture. (Lutheran Study Bible, pg. 1826). This is why we often sing these words in our liturgy before the reading of the Gospel lesson.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Terry (Spadaro). Bless her now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (April 23, 2023)

Third Sunday of Easter

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:27)

READING

"But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"" (Acts 2:14, 36-37)

MEDITATION

Peter is addressing the crowd at Pentecost, those believers upon whom the tongues of fire appeared and the Holy Spirit was breathed out on them. It is an exhilarating moment—one they most likely wanted to hold on to and stay in for at least a little while. But Peter's next words cut them to the heart, "...this Jesus whom you crucified." And in these words, they recognize their sin and their need for repentance. The work of the Holy Spirit continues today. The Holy Spirit shows us our sins and our need for forgiveness. The Holy Spirit shows us our need for Jesus.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Craig (Erickson), O Lord, and teach him to hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (April 24, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

READING

“And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:37-41)

MEDITATION

God’s remedy for our sin is Jesus. In our baptism, we are buried with Christ into His death, and we are raised with Him in His resurrection. In baptism we get Christ—all of Him. In baptism we receive the Holy Spirit. In baptism we are reconciled with The Father. Baptized into the name of Jesus Christ we receive the gifts of forgiveness of sins, life eternal, and rescue from sin, death and the devil.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Heavenly Father, bless Maywan (Krach) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross her path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

TUESDAY (April 25, 2023)

St Mark, Evangelist

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

READING

“And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.” (1 Peter 1:17-21)

MEDITATION

To stand before God the Father on our own deeds or merits would certainly be fear-inducing. For in and of ourselves, we have nothing to offer God and our future would be grim indeed. But, Christ has ransomed us from such a fear-filled life. He gave His life that we might be given new life. He gave His very body and blood that we might be spared. And so, we come to the Lord’s Supper to receive the body and blood of the Lamb to strengthen us on our journey.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Tom (Ussery) this week. Give him your grace and teach him to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER FOR FEAST OF ST. MARK, EVANGELIST

Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the proclamation of the Gospel through the evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (April 26, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

READING

“That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”” (Luke 24:13-18)

MEDITATION

“That very day” is the day of the resurrection—the Eighth Day. The risen Jesus draws near to these two disappointed, disillusioned souls, but they do not recognize Him. And it is obvious they do not believe all that Jesus had told them in the previous three years when He went about teaching, preaching and healing. It’s as if all that Jesus had taught them had vanished into thin air and they are dejected, defeated and sad. How often do we, like these two men, walk around dejected and defeated, not recognizing the gift of Christ in our ordinary lives?

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Les (Dahlstedt) this day, O Lord, and show him your great love throughout all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

THURSDAY (April 27, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:27)

READING

"And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."" (Luke 24:19-24)

MEDITATION

These men have lost hope rather quickly, even dismissing the news of the resurrection as foolish talk by women. What is it that makes us lose hope? What is it that keeps us from "seeing" Jesus in the mundane days of our lives? Truth be told, most of us find ourselves in this place from time to time. Thankfully, Christ has the last Word.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Stephen (Zavala) this day, as he goes about the callings you have given to him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (April 28, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

READING

“And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them.” (Luke 24:25-29)

MEDITATION

Jesus calls these men foolish (not the women who the men thought spoke foolish things!). How long had Jesus spoke of His sufferings and death? How many times had He tried to prepare his disciples for his crucifixion and resurrection? And so, Jesus does a remarkable thing. He patiently begins to show how all of Scripture is to be interpreted through Himself. And how true this is for us as well. When we read any part of the Bible, we read it Christologically – that is, through the lens of Christ.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Celie (Cranney) before you this day, asking that You would give her your mercy all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

SATURDAY (April 29, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:27)

READING

"When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread." (Luke 24:30-35)

MEDITATION

Jesus' glory is veiled. Even though He has walked with these men, interpreted all of Scripture for them as they walked to Emmaus, it is when they recline at table, and He breaks the bread, that their eyes were opened. Jesus reveals Himself through simple means. Jesus the guest, becomes the host. We too are sustained at the Table where Jesus is both guest and host in the breaking of the bread. Our hearts burn within us as Jesus reveals Himself to us, unveiling Himself time and time again.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Bill (Davis). Bless him now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (April 30, 2023)

Fourth Sunday of Easter

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

READING

“And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:43-47)

MEDITATION

The foundation of the early Christian Church was the crucified and risen Christ. The signs and wonders done were a reflection of Christ. The Words spoken by the Apostles reflected Christ. It is the same for us today, here at Holy Cross and in the Church at large. Christ is our foundation. Christ is our identity. Christ is the One who binds us together. Christ is the One we reflect as we live out our lives in love and service to one another.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Jerome (Herfindahl), O Lord, and teach him to hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

MONDAY (May 1, 2023)

St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

READING

“For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” (1 Peter 2:19-21)

MEDITATION

Suffering in and of itself is no virtue. However, there will be suffering in this life. There will be persecution for those who live under the cross. But we are never alone in this suffering and persecution. Christ is the One who suffered all in body and soul—and He suffered unjustly for our sakes. We need not fear. Christ, the suffering One is our balm in times of trial, and He will never leave or forsake us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Jim (Soals) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross his path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR FEAST DAY OF ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES, APOSTLES

Almighty God, Your Son revealed Himself to Philip and James and gave them the knowledge of everlasting life. Grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, and steadfastly to walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

TUESDAY (May 2, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

READING

"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Peter 2:22-25)

MEDITATION

Christ bore into His body all our sins, our diseases, our sufferings, even our death. His body was bloodied, bruised, pierced, spat upon, and hung up naked for the world to witness His shame. And in this shameful condition, He heals us. By His wounds, we have healing and life. By partaking of His very Body and Blood, we receive the medicine of immortality. Christ, the crucified paschal lamb, is also our shepherd and the overseer of our souls. That is a great comfort and source of joy.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Katie (Cross) this week. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (May 3, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

READING

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them." (John 10:1-6)

MEDITATION

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is our good shepherd and the paschal lamb. We know His voice. We hear it week in and week out as our pastor speaks Christ's Word. Words of forgiveness. Words of peace. Words of mercy. Words that become familiar to us as we hear them over and over again.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Janet (Froh) this day, O Lord, and show her your great love throughout all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (May 4, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

READING

"So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:7-10)

MEDITATION

Christ is both the Way and the way to the Way. He is the door and the one who opens the door for us. He comes to protect us from all harm. He comes to give us life that can only be found in Him. And He comes to give us abundant life—a life of lavish grace and mercy. He comes again and again, never giving up on us sheep, wander though we might.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Wyatt (Yates) this day, as he goes about the callings you have given to him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (May 5, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

READING

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." (Psalms 23:1-3)

MEDITATION

Shepherd me, O God, beyond all my wants, beyond my fears from death into life.

Dear God, you sustain and fed me: like a shepherd you guide me. You lead me to an oasis of green, to lie down by restful waters.

Shepherd me, O God, beyond all my wants, beyond my fears from death into life.

Quenching my thirst, you restore my life: renewed and refreshed, I follow you, a journey on the narrowest of paths. You keep me true to your name.

Excerpts from Psalm 23: The Shepherd and The Host (J. Cotter)

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Daisy (Davis) before you this day, asking that You would give her your mercy all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (May 6, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

READING

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever." (Psalms 23:4-6)

MEDITATION

Shepherd me, O God, beyond all my wants, beyond my fears from death into life.

Even when cliffs loom out of the mist, my step is steady because of my trust. Even when I go through the deepest valley, with the shadow of darkness and death, I will fear no evil or harm. For you are with me to give me strength, your crook, your staff at my side.

Shepherd me, O God, beyond all my wants, beyond my fears from death into life.

Even in the midst of my troubles, with the murmurs of those who disturb me, I know I can feast in your presence.

Excerpts from Psalm 23: The Shepherd and The Host (J. Cotter)

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Tom (Rogers). Bless him now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (May 7, 2023)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—" (1 Peter 2:2)

READING

"Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."" (Acts 6:1-4)

MEDITATION

Even this side of Jesus' resurrection, we still bicker and fight amongst ourselves. The early church was no different. The Hellenists were Greek converts to Christianity, and they were complaining that their widows were not being cared for properly. There was no retirement program then. It was up to the community to care for its own. And so the church adapted. They made sure that there were men who would be called deacons (literally "servants") who would care for the physical needs of the people. This was so that prayer and the ministry of the word would not be neglected. Thanks be to God that He gives so many different talents and abilities to His Church!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Georgi (Price), O Lord, and teach her to hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (May 8, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—” (1 Peter 2:2)

READING

“And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.” (Acts 6:5-8)

MEDITATION

That’s quite a list of names, isn’t it? We can barely even pronounce them, yet these names are recorded in the Scriptures for us to learn and remember that God uses real people for His real purposes. The apostles prayed and laid hands on them, and sent them out to serve (deacon) His people. Through this, the Word of God increased. Thanks be to God!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Betty (Ruecker) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross her path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

TUESDAY (May 9, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—" (1 Peter 2:2)

READING

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."" (1 Peter 2:2-6)

MEDITATION

The cornerstone of the Christian faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. That is the cornerstone, the pure spiritual milk of the Word. When we receive this Word, faith is strengthened, life is renewed, and we become a holy priesthood, offering sacrifices and prayers to God through Jesus Christ. That is who we are as God's people. Drink of the pure milk of the Word. It is always fresh and new, ready to remake you into God's image once again.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Nikki (Fielitz) this week. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (May 10, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—" (1 Peter 2:2)

READING

"So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:7-10)

MEDITATION

We are a royal priesthood. But what does that mean? It means that God, who is life and mercy, gives Himself to us, has made us kings and priests in His kingdom. It means that each one of us has a place at the Table, and that each one of us have a divine command to proclaim His mercy to the world. But with that command comes the promise that it is His Word, not ours. We are His kings and priests. This is not because we do so many great things. It is because He is so great and does so many wonderful things through us.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Tyler (Jackson) this day, O Lord, and show him your great love throughout all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (May 11, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—" (1 Peter 2:2)

READING

""Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."" (John 14:1-7)

MEDITATION

There is great comfort in knowing that Jesus Christ has paved the way for us. He has prepared a place for us by His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. But notice that the most important part of this place is that Jesus says "where I am you may be also". That is the point. He is the way, the truth and life. It is only through Jesus that we enter into eternal life with Him. But what a great gift that is! Thanks be to God that He does not shrink from calling us His friends and family.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to James (Erickson) this day, as he goes about the callings you have given to him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (May 12, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—" (1 Peter 2:2)

READING

"Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves." (John 14:8-11)

MEDITATION

If we want to know God, the way to God is through Jesus. It is that simple. Look to the manger, the cross and the empty tomb, for there you will see who God is and what He does. Look to the font and the Altar to see how God Himself comes to us. Hear His Word, receive His gifts, and you will be one with God the Father. There is no other way to Him.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Gary (Myer) before you this day, asking that You would give him your mercy all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (May 13, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—" (1 Peter 2:2)

READING

""Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." (John 14:12-14)

MEDITATION

Faith creates good works, not the other way around. Faith always creates good works. It is a byproduct of faith. It is through these works that God does His work throughout the world. So don't be afraid to ask for anything in Jesus' name. He has come to give you all things in Him.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Pam (Williams). Bless her now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (May 14, 2023)

Sixth Sunday of Easter

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Baptism...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21)

READING

"Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new." (Acts 17:16-21)

MEDITATION

Is this episode from Acts 17 the first century or the twenty-first century? Our ears long for something new. We want things to be new on our phones and computers, on TV or the radio (the Internet?). We want new books and movies. If it is not new, it must not be that good. But what God gives to us in His Son is the only truly new thing in the whole world. Forgiveness is new. Life in Him is new. All the rest is just a rehashing of the same old temptations put into a new wrapper. Don't be taken in by the temptation for the new. Receive Christ, and the rest will come in His time.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Carol (Berkenbile), O Lord, and teach her to hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (May 15, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Baptism...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21)

READING

"So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him." (Acts 17:22-27)

MEDITATION

The Greeks collected gods like they were baseball cards. But the God who made the world is not to be collected, or contained by anything made by man. But He comes to earth as flesh and blood in the person of Jesus Christ. That is the true God of every nation, Greeks and Jews alike. He is our true dwelling place, because it is only in Him that we are complete.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Finn (Cross) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross his path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (May 16, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Baptism...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21)

READING

"Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.' Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'" (Acts 17:27-31)

MEDITATION

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of faith. Not all accept it or rejoice in it, but it is the capstone and lynchpin of Christianity. If Jesus rose from the dead, then we have a hope for the future. If He did not rise from the dead, then we are still in our sins. Thanks be to God that He rose again for our salvation, and that what He gives to us is far better than silver or gold or anything that perishes. He gives us an indestructible life, born in His resurrection.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Eric (Jarvinen) this week. Give him your grace and teach him to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (May 17, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Baptism...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21)

READING

"Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil." (1 Peter 3:13-17)

MEDITATION

Always be prepared to give a defense. Why does Jesus matter to you? What is the basis for your hope? Our hope is in Him. He is the one who gives us a good conscience by His blood. And He is the one who will give you all things in Him. It doesn't matter what others think about you. What matters is that God looks at you and sees Jesus Christ.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Sarah (Creiglow) this day, O Lord, and show her your great love throughout all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (May 18, 2023)

The Ascension of Our Lord

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Baptism...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21)

READING

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him." (1 Peter 3:17-22)

MEDITATION

Baptism saves you by giving you a good conscience before God. God delivers Jesus' death and resurrection to you in Holy Baptism, and so Jesus' holy and righteous life is now yours. The suffering that we face today is but a shadow and leftover image of what was done once for all. It is reflected suffering, that points us to Christ and His great work for us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Phyllis (Reichley) this day, as she goes about the callings you have given to her. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (May 19, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Baptism...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21)

READING

""If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:15-17)

MEDITATION

The Helper is the Holy Spirit. He dwells in you because you are Baptized into Christ. It is only through Him that we are able to keep His commandments. But in Him, we do keep them. The world cannot see or understand or know this, but it does not matter. It is true because of Christ's great work for us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Brianna (Williams) before you this day, asking that You would give her your mercy all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (May 20, 2023)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Baptism...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21)

READING

""I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."" (John 14:18-21)

MEDITATION

God will not leave us to fend for ourselves. We could never do it. It would be a mess from start to finish. But God does not leave us orphans, without father or mother. After all, God is our Father, and He is the one who gives us to His bride, His Church, to mother us and care for us all the days of our lives. Thank God that He continues to give Himself to us here, in the bosom of His Church!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Gary (Bechthold). Bless him now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

4701 Grove Street - Rocklin, California 95677

(916) 624-8185 - www.holycrossrocklin.org

Rev. Marsh Shamburger, Senior Pastor

Deaconess Pamela Boehle-Silva, RN

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House