At the Name of Jesus
Wednesdays in Lent
Worship at 7:30 PM

This Lenten midweek service, based on the second reading for Passion Sunday, Philippians 2:5-11, points the assembly toward its annual celebration of the Sunday of the Passion and clarifies/reinforces the importance of reading the passion as the central proclamation for Passion Sunday. While it is not uncommon to be confused about Passion/Palm Sunday, these midweek reflections will point our worshiping community toward a deeper and richer celebration of the passion of Christ on the first day of Holy Week and exploit the rich contrast between that Sunday’s entrance rite shouts of “Hosanna!” over and against the passion reading’s cries of “Crucify!” Both ends of the theological and emotional spectrum are significant touchstones for the coming celebration of the Three Days, and few passages give such clear voice to those contrasting touchstones as the Christ hymn in Philippians 2.

Lent 1  Christ emptied and humbled himself  Wed., Mar. 4  7:00 pm
Lent 2  Christ became obedient  Wed., Mar. 11  7:00 pm
Lent 3  At the name of Jesus all knees shall bow  Wed., Mar. 18  7:30 pm
Lent 4  Every tongue confesses Jesus  Wed., Mar. 25  7:30 pm
Lent 5  Let the same mind be in you  Wed., Apr. 1  7:30 pm
CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP

Holy Cross strives to be a welcoming place for families of all ages to worship. If you have not already, please help your child select a ‘worship tool kit’ (brightly colored bags hanging by the front door). In these kits you will find items to help your child participate in worship:

- **Electric Tea Light**: Turn on when candles are lit and off when candles are put out.

- **Worship Wand**: Wave around while the assembly sings hymns and liturgy.

- **Cross**: Hold while prayers are spoken.

- **Stickers**: Bless someone near you with a sticker during the Peace or the Postlude.

- **Envelope**: Place any artwork you draw in church (or at home) in an envelope and put it in the offering plate. You may see it displayed in the church next week!

Children are encouraged to go to ‘Children’s Church’ after Listening with Children’s Ears where they will hear a children’s version of today’s gospel message, do a fun activity, and have a snack. (Please alert a nursery attendant of any allergies.) The children will return to worship in time to bring the offering and communion elements forward, after which they will return to their families for communion.
INTRODUCTION

In today’s gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God’s promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God’s unfailing promise in our baptism.

COMMEMORATION THIS WEEK

Check the HCLC Facebook page for a live video on each commemoration day.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824  Sunday, March 29, 2020
Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631  Tuesday, March 31, 2020
After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589  Saturday, April 4, 2020
Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor:  Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Assembly:  Amen.
Pastor: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Gracious God, Assembly: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Pastor: Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

Assembly: Amen.
GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: And also, with you.
CANTICLE OF JOEL

Refrain:

Even now, even now, return to the Lord.

Cantor: Return to the Lord, the trumpet sounds.

Assembly: Refrain

Cantor: Darkness and gloom covers all the earth.

Assembly: Refrain

Cantor: Rend you hearts with weeping and mourning.

Assembly: Refrain

Cantor: Return to God with all your heart,

Assembly: Refrain

Cantor: for God abounds with steadfast love.

Assembly: Refrain

Cantor: Sanctify a fast, gather ev’ryone.

Assembly: Refrain

Cantor: Gather children, infants, families.

Assembly: Refrain

Cantor: Let the priests and ministers of the Lord weep.

Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord.”

Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is your God?”

Cantor: Return to the Lord, with all your heart.

Assembly: Refrain (2x)
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

LISTENING WITH CHILDREN’S EARS

Assembly: Praise God, praise God, all ye little children. God is love. God is love. Praise God, praise God, all ye little children. God is love. God is love.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God’s life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that “I am the LORD.”

Reader: A reading from the prophet Ezekiel:

1The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” 4Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

7So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say...
to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” 10I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ 12Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

Reader: Word of God, word of life.
Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM
Psalm 130
I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

Reader: Let us speak Psalm 130 in unison.

1Out of the depths
   I cry to you, O LORD;
2O LORD, hear my voice!
   Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
3If you were to keep watch over sins,
   O LORD, who could stand?
4Yet with you is forgiveness,
   in order that you may be feared.
5I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;
   in your word is my hope.
6My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
   more than those who keep watch for the morning.
7O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
   with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.
8For the LORD shall redeem Israel
   from all their sins.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.
Assembly: Thanks be to God.
For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

Reader: A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans:

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.
Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Now the Feast and Celebration)

Congregation:
Return to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and mercy; Come, seek the tender faithfulness of God.
1Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” 4But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” 5Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” 8The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” 9Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” 11After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” 12The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” 13Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” 16Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

17When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” 23Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”
28When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” 29And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but, was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” 35Jesus began to weep. 36So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

38Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” 40Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” 41So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” 43When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

45Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON
What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this
I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my
beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through eternity I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.
APOSTLES’ CREED

Assisting Minister: With the whole church let us profess our faith.

Assembly: 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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Assisting Minister: God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its renewal like Hans Nielsen Hauge, whom we commemorate today. Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.
Assisting Minister: God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other natural disasters. Bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain. We pray especially for those we name before you (the assembly offers names). Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. We give thanks especially today for our partners in ministry at Embry Rucker, LINK, Herndon Middle School, and Community Lutheran Church. Let us bless the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Assisting Minister: For what else do the people of God pray?

*Here, other intercessions may be offered. You are invited to add a petition out loud or pray for something in your heart. Petitions do not need to be long or thought out. Bring whatever you need to God at this time.*

Assisting Minister: God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again. Breathe new life into our dry bones, that we, too, might live with you forever. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.
Pastor: According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

😊 THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Assembly: And also, with you.

Please sit

✉️ OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING
Via Dolorosa

Stan Pethal

Please stand
OFFERTORY

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Holy and generous host,
you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.
PRAYER IN TIMES OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

Assembly:

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

Assisting Minister: God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always.

Assembly: Amen.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, you are our Good Shepherd in times of need. Be with all who must travel in these times. Guide all who travel safely to their destination. Keep them healthy as they interact with crowds.

Assembly: Amen.
Assisting Minister: Comforting Lord, be with teachers as their ways of teaching change. Be with students as their ways of learning will also change. Bring calm to students who are fearful from all they hear and see around them. Grant patience in times of school closures. Provide guidance to school administrators as they make decisions to best move forward.

Assembly: Amen.

Pastor: God of all knowledge, be with government officials as they navigate the current virus outbreak. Help them make decisions that best serve those in need. May they do their work in a spirit of wisdom, justice, and charity.

Assembly: Amen.

Assisting Minister: Loving God, your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on all people living with illness, as well as their families and loved ones. Help them to know that you claim them as your own and deliver them from fear and pain; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

Assembly:

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.
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.
WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

SENDING HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living

1 Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,
3 Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrow deep and sore,

Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:
even death by crucifixion, fully to a tone for me;
for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you evermore;

through your suffering, death, and merit life eternal I inherit:
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented,
thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,

Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
for that last triumphant cry, praise you evermore on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687
BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Lord of steadfastness continue to embrace us with love, support us with gracious courage, and hold us in the palm of God’s hand. May we be filled with God’s joy and peace, abounding in hope, in the name of the One who claims us, ✝ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: In God’s peace, let us serve God and all Creation!

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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