

**All Saints Sunday**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 1, 2020**  
**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church**  
**Brooklyn Center, MN**

*Today, the first Sunday of the month, we will celebrate Holy Communion. As we prepare to take part in this meal together from home, please gather bread (or a cracker) and wine (or juice). Today we also celebrate All Saints Sunday, the day in the church when we honor the saints who have gone before us. As a reminder of their memory and of God's presence among us, are invited to light a candle at home.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**Faithful God have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We judge others before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before the needs of our neighbors. Humble us, have mercy on us, and turn us again to life in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

**WORSHIP SONG**

**Come All You People**

**Worship Team**

Come, all you people,  
come and praise your Maker.  
Come, all you people,  
come and praise your Maker.

Come, all you people,  
Come and praise your Maker.  
Come now and worship the Lord.

Come, all you people,  
come and praise the Savior.  
Come, all you people,  
come and praise the Savior.

Come, all you people,  
Come and praise the Savior.  
Come now and worship the Lord.

Come and praise the Lord.  
Come and praise the Lord.  
Come and praise the Lord.

And we will

Come and praise the Lord.  
Come and praise the Lord.  
Come and praise the Lord.

Come, all you people,  
come and praise the Spirit.  
Come, all you people,  
come and praise the Spirit.

And we will

Come and praise the Lord.  
Come and praise the Lord.  
Come and praise the Lord.

Come, all you people,  
Come and praise the Spirit.  
Come now and worship the Lord.

Come and praise the Lord.  
Come and praise the Lord.  
Come and praise the Lord.

## GREETING

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

## SONG OF PRAISE For Everyone Born

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead,

For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the gift to belong,

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
To work, to speak out, To witness and worship,  
For everyone born, The gift to be free,

## Worship Team

And God will delight when we  
Welcome all to the table,  
With joy, compassion and peace.  
Yes, God will delight when we  
Welcome all to the table,  
With justice and joy!

And God will delight when we  
Welcome all to the table,  
With joy, compassion and peace.  
Yes, God will delight when we  
Yes, God will delight when we  
Welcome all to the table,  
With justice and joy!

With justice and joy!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*Let us pray . . .* **O God, your loving Son lived among us and taught us the ways of humility and justice. By your Spirit, motivate us and move us into action on behalf of our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## READING: Micah 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets  
who lead my people astray,  
who cry "Peace"

when they have something to eat,  
but declare war against those  
who put nothing into their mouths.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,  
and darkness to you, without revelation.

The sun shall go down upon the prophets,  
and the day shall be black over them;

<sup>7</sup>the seers shall be disgraced,  
and the diviners put to shame;  
they shall all cover their lips,  
for there is no answer from God.

<sup>8</sup>But as for me, I am filled with power,  
with the spirit of the LORD,  
and with justice and might,  
to declare to Jacob his transgression  
and to Israel his sin.

<sup>9</sup>Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob  
and chiefs of the house of Israel,  
who abhor justice

and pervert all equity,  
<sup>10</sup>who build Zion with blood  
and Jerusalem with wrong!  
<sup>11</sup>Its rulers give judgment for a bribe,  
its priests teach for a price,  
its prophets give oracles for money;  
yet they lean upon the LORD and say,  
“Surely the LORD is with us!  
No harm shall come upon us.”  
<sup>12</sup>Therefore because of you  
Zion shall be plowed as a field;  
Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,  
and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Keith Williams**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 23:1-12**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat;  
<sup>3</sup>therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice  
what they teach. <sup>4</sup>They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others;  
but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup>They do all their deeds to be seen  
by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. <sup>6</sup>They love to have the place  
of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup>and to be greeted with respect in the  
marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. <sup>8</sup>But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have  
one teacher, and you are all students. <sup>9</sup>And call no one your father on earth, for you have one  
Father—the one in heaven. <sup>10</sup>Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the  
Messiah. <sup>11</sup>The greatest among you will be your servant. <sup>12</sup>All who exalt themselves will be humbled,  
and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**Linqing Chu**

In today’s gospel Jesus continued his teaching. This time, he didn’t use parables, but spoke very clearly and directly to his disciples, saying “do not do as they do” because those scribes and Pharisees “do not practice what they teach.”

As Jesus’s time on earth came to the end, his teaching became more and more intense and direct. Like in Hebrew 4:12, it said God’s words like “sharper than any two-edged sword,” it came directly into the center of our hearts. Jesus started to tell his disciples to prepare, to prepare themselves when Jesus won’t be there with them physically. He gave this warning to his disciples to follow Moses’s teaching but not what those religious leaders and rulers did. Later on in Matthew 24 and 25, he spoke about the destruction of the temple and his lament for Jerusalem, he even talked about the sign of the final days, the second coming of Jesus, and the final Judgement. In only two to three chapters, he spoke so clearly about what his disciples would face and eventually what we will all face one day. When I think about this, I’m so amazed by how Jesus can put thousands of years into these short messages. Just as in 2 Peter 3:8, it said, “with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like

one day.” For our eternal God, time is nothing. One of my favorite pastors once said “God doesn’t need time, the reason God gives us time is to give us chance.” That’s so true! If God is eternal, why does he need time? He does not! The time is set here for us! To give us the chance to return, to praise Him, to proclaim the Gospel, to help those who are in need, to work for God, to walk along with God, and to be part of the glory in His kingdom. That’s why He gave us time.

Now Jesus was using his last time on this earth to give his disciples some of the most significant teachings. Today’s Gospel is one of them. Matthew 23:1 wrote “Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples.” There is a very interesting detail, Jesus not only spoke this to his disciples, he also spoke this to the crowds. There are differences between the crowds and the disciples. Many times when the crowds followed Jesus, they had a longing heart for Jesus, they heard about him, heard about the miracles he did, so they wanted to see Jesus, they wanted to hear his voice, they wanted to see how Jesus look, and of course some of them wanted to see miracles happen in front of their eyes. Yet, there were only a few that decided to follow him. On the other hand, the disciples were the ones who have seen the same thing as the crowds, but took action and decided to carry their own cross and follow Jesus. This is the biggest difference between the crowds and the disciples. The message Jesus gave us today is the message that he gave to all: no matter whether you are Christian or not, no matter how long you have been a Christian in your life, it’s for you, for all of us.

There are two very strong messages that spoke to me from today’s Gospel and I hope this can also be a help for you too. The first is, take action. Let what we received from God become the true guide of our daily lives. If the Lord said “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Then do it. Do it through our prayers, do it through our praise, do it through our daily devotion, and do it through the worship we are doing every Sunday. Every time when we come in front of God, we are truly praying with our whole hearts, we are truly praising him with all our souls, and we worship him with all our minds. The truth is that is not easy, this biggest commitment God gave us is not easy. To be honest, many times we won’t love him with our whole heart until we encounter a situation that is way stronger than what we can deal with. We all of a sudden start to love God more, before that we always put ourselves first. and sometimes even after we went through the storm, the difficulties in our lives, we return back to where we were. There are so many examples in the Bible that showed the same pattern of how people go their own way and worship their own gods, and all the sudden they encountered something that is too strong for them to deal with, or too hard that they couldn’t stand anymore, then they started to cry out to God. God would then take away the sufferings, but eventually people started to sin again.

Our old selves always wanted to put ourselves before God, and to tell you the truth, sometimes when I’m praying, my mind might be somewhere else, thinking about what I have to cook/eat for today, what are the things I need to do today and so forth. Therefore, this is not an easy commitment to make.

Jesus then said, “love your neighbors as yourselves.” When it comes to this one, the actions become harder. Now it’s not only God and me, but a whole lot of people on the list. How can I love someone who has harmed me before? How can I love someone who has disrespected me? How can I love someone who doesn’t agree or has totally different views with me? How can I love this stranger that I have never met before?

When I was in college, my pastor gave us a challenge on how to love strangers. He asked us to pray for people wherever we go, pray for those who are around us that we don’t know. I started to practice that, every time when I walk around the campus, I pray for every person I see. When I get on the bus, I would pray for everyone on the bus, I pray that everyone will one day know Jesus and they will be saved, and I pray for all the sickness of their body and mind will be healed. After a while, there was one time, the Spirit really moved me, and I started to cry. I suddenly felt how desperate God is. He wanted each of us to know Him and the fact He deeply loved all and was willing to sacrifice His only Son for us. I hope people didn’t think I had some sort of a mental issue and randomly cried in public without any reason. But even now, I still can’t stand firm in front of God and say I followed your commitment, because it’s a lifelong

learning lesson for me.

The second message I received from today Gospel is the word “motivation.” When we decide to follow God, are we ready to take on the actions on what he called us to do. Before we start, check your motivations. Here Jesus gave us a perfect example, those scribes and Pharisees not only don’t practice what they teach, they refuse to take action. When they did take action, they did it with a wrong motivation. In verses 5-7 it said, “they do all their deeds to be seen by others; They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi.” That is why they did what they did, just as Jesus knew exactly why those scribes and Pharisees did that. He knows our motivations too. Do we repent to God, or are we returning to God because we are afraid that we might lose his blessings and might lose what we have now? Or do we repent because we truly know that we have sinned against God. Are we doing what we do because we want to have attention and respect from others? Or do we do it because we know how much God loves us? What we are doing now can’t even compare 1% with what he has done for us.

Today’s other reading in the book of Micah, it gave us another example with bad motivation. When the prophet Micah spoke, he said “the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry “Peace” when they have something to eat, but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths.” Then he said “Its rulers give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for a price, its prophets give oracles for money; yet they lean upon the Lord and say, ‘Surely the Lord is with us! No harm shall come upon us.’” Those leaders and rulers were practicing injustice and prophesying the wrong messages for the purpose of food and money. As for those scribes and Pharisees, their motivation was based on reputation, power, being respected, and being honored. Those rulers that Micah mentioned show us another motivation, which is the satisfaction of their body and their greed for money. When we look for those motivations, those are all human nature. We need food, we need money in order to live a life on this earth, we want people to respect us, we want to have a good reputation, we sometimes want that power so that we are in control. All of those are things that come with the human body. But look what Jesus said about those things, he said “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” In Matthew 6, it says “You cannot serve God and wealth.” In today’s scripture, Jesus said “All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” Jesus is so clear with all of those motivations, and he clearly told us what to do and what not to do. I’m not saying today you should start fasting or stop working, but the point is Jesus showed us here that once we start to be greedy with other motivations, that’s when we will walk away from the path.

Last I want to end with Paul’s letter here, he said to the Thessalonians church “As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.” Let us take action with pure motivations. Amen!

**HYMN OF THE DAY      #720 We Are Called      verses 1, 2 and 3**

- |  |                       |  |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Come! Live in the light!<br/>Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!<br/>We are called to be light for the kingdom,<br/>to live in the freedom of the city of God.</p>    | <p><b>Refrain</b></p> | <p>We are called to act with justice,<br/>we are called to love tenderly;<br/>we are called to serve one another,<br/>to walk humbly with God.</p>   |
| <p><b>2</b> Come! Open your heart!<br/>Show your mercy to all those in fear!<br/>We are called to be hope for the hopeless<br/>so hatred and blindness will be no more. <b>Refrain</b></p> | <p><b>3</b></p>       | <p>Sing! Sing a new song!<br/>Sing of that great day when all will be one!<br/>God will reign, and we'll walk with each other<br/>as sisters and brothers united in love. <b>Refrain</b></p> |

## CONFESSION OF FAITH                  Apostles' Creed

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.

## OFFERTORY

*Thank you for continuing to support and sustain the work of Cross of Glory during this time. Please send your offering to the church (5929 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429), or contact Sue in the office to learn more about how to set up automatic, online giving. We are so grateful for your generosity!*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE                  Nada te Turbe

**English**        Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.  
                      Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

**Spanish**        Nada te turbe, nada te espante.  
                      Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have given us the gifts of your good creation. Nourish us as we gather at your table today, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.**

## PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

*Humbled in prayer, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need...*

Gracious God, you humble the exalted and exalt the humble. Through the humility, vulnerability, and repentance of your church, bring a compassionate welcome to all in need of your grace, giving those who feel most unworthy of love a seat at the head of your table. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, be with those who bear heavy burdens on their shoulders today. We pray for those who are overworked and underpaid, those who are hungry, those who are homeless or on the run, those who are living behind bars, those who are sick, and those who struggle with addiction. Bring justice where power has been abused for personal gain, and give us pure and loving motivations as we serve our neighbors who are most in need. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, guide all creatures of the earth through harsh extremes of creation—drought and flood, fire and freezing cold. Hold in your loving mercy all places where lives have been disrupted by natural disasters, and lead us to lovingly steward the earth you created. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rabbi God, empower us to be students of your love, justice, and peace, especially as we head into this election week. Guide us in local, state, and national elections, lead us into relationships across difference, and empower us as we continue in the difficult but life-giving work of life together. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, embrace all those whose minds are restless, whose bodies are aching, and whose souls are weary on this day. Be with the grieving, the sick, and the lonely, and be with all those who faithfully care for them. We pray especially for Gil Hartlage, Terry Stejskal, the Dahl family,

Vicky Jacobson, Jeanine Kuzmich, Geri Kroll, for the son and daughter-in-law of Harriet Halvorsen, for the Vukelich family as they grieve the death of Bruce's cousin, and the Simon family as they grieve the death of Tom's cousin. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, on this All Saints Sunday, we remember now all those who dwell with you at your heavenly banquet, especially those who have died this past year in our church community [*a bell will be rung after each name is read aloud*]: Joyce Kowalczyk, Burdette Boyum, Virginia Lebus, J. Edward Fern, Dorothy Retotar, Arlys Puls, Bev Hoiium, Clinton Nygard, Don Custer, Lee Howe, and all the loved ones of our community for whom we've also lit a candle today. God, we lament all the losses that this year has held, all the kinds of grief we carry. May these candles lit here and, in our homes, remind us of your light in the midst of darkness, your hope in the midst of despair, and your gift of resurrection in the midst of death. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** For all the prayers we've named aloud and for the ones that remain in the silence of our hearts, we pray to you O God, our rabbi, our teacher, our father, the Messiah.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...*

**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.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**COMMUNION** The body of Christ is given for you, and the blood of Christ is shed for you.

*You are invited to partake in this holy meal at home with a form of bread and either wine or juice, trusting that God is present in it, and that it unites us as one body, even while we are apart.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness. Gathered and sustained by the gifts of bread and wine, empower us now to share your abundant love with all who are hungry, through Jesus Christ, the giver of life. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into life. **Amen.**

### **SENDING FORTH SONG #669 Rise Up, O Saints of God! verses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

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|--|--|
| <b>1</b> Rise up, O saints of God!<br>From vain ambitions turn;<br>Christ rose triumphant that your hearts<br>with nobler zeal might burn. | <b>2</b> Speak out, O saints of God!<br>Despair engulfs earth's frame;<br>as heirs of God's baptismal grace,<br>the word of hope proclaim. |
| <b>3</b> Rise up, O saints of God!<br>The kingdom's task embrace;<br>redress sin's cruel consequence;<br>give justice larger place.        | <b>4</b> Give heed, O saints of God!<br>Creation cries in pain;<br>stretch forth your hand of healing now,<br>with love the weak sustain.  |

- 5 Commit your hearts to seek  
the paths which Christ has trod;  
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,  
rise up, O saints of God!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Order of Service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship which is commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
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<p><b>Congregational Support as of 9/30/2020</b> <b>Annual Budget: \$225,000.00</b> <b>Year to Date Budgeted: \$168,325.01</b> <b>Year to Date Received: \$163,673.12</b> <b>Difference: \$-4,651.89</b></p>
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## Community Announcements

- Following today's Zoom worship service, you're invited to grab a cup of coffee and join us for Virtual Coffee Hour, an opportunity to connect with one another for a brief time of small-group fellowship. Friends, family, and first-timers are warmly welcome!
- Join us for Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am on Zoom as we explore the texts for the upcoming week. Call in by video or phone using the same Zoom info we use for Sunday worship.
- Cross of Glory's Community Needs Circle invites you to support local families as the holiday season nears. This year, in lieu of CEAP's Toys for Joy event, CEAP is collecting monetary donations to share with local families in need. There is a \$25,000 matching gift for all donations received on November 19, which is MN's Give to the Max Day. For more information about how to take part, reach out to Barb Thomson at [bjthomson@comcast.net](mailto:bjthomson@comcast.net) or 763-425-9393.
- This next week, keep an eye out for the November issue of the Glory Banner, our church's newsletter. If you're new and would like to be added to our mailing list or would like to change the way you receive communications, please email the church office at [svukelich@crossofglory.us](mailto:svukelich@crossofglory.us).
- Please reach out to Pastor Ali with any other announcements or pastoral concerns and needs. You can reach her by email ([atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us)) or phone (763-533-8602).