

Welcome to
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
WARDA, TEXAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
PO Box 69 Warda TX 78960
979.242.3333 holycrosswarda.com

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠
(In the Name of Jesus)

GUESTS & VISITORS: Welcome to Holy Cross and to today's worship service. We are glad you are here! Please register your attendance in the Fellowship Book in the pew (be sure to include the name of any children with you today). We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you have any questions, or have an interest in joining Holy Cross, please speak with Pastor or one of our Elders.

IN TODAY'S READINGS:

We Are Recreated in the Image of God by the Cross of Christ

Plotting against Jesus, the Pharisees attempted “*to entangle him in his words*” by asking about the payment of taxes to Caesar (Matt. 22:15). The Lord pointed to coins required for the tax, and He answered that we should “*render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's*” (Matt. 22:21). But if coins bearing the image of Caesar should be rendered to him, then man — who is made in the image of God — must be rendered to the Lord. That tax is paid for us by the Lord Jesus, the image of God in the flesh, by His self-offering on the cross. And from His cross, as the Lord's anointed, He reigns as the true Caesar over all nations “*from the rising of the sun and from the west*” (Is. 45:6). The Lord once called and anointed Cyrus “*to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings*” (Is. 45:1). Now by the preaching of the Gospel, “*in power and in the Holy Spirit*” (1 Thess. 1:5), foreigners from all over the world are “*turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God*” (1 Thess. 1:9–10).

PRELUDE - *Selected*

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

Hymn 339

[Please stand]

OPENING SENTENCES

pg. 32ff.

P O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C **♪ And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.**

Psalms 51:15

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C **♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Psalms 70:1

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Hallelujah!**

INVITATORY AND VENITE

P Oh, come, let us worship the Lord:

[Hebrews 10:22]

C **♪ For He is our Maker.**

**Oh come, let us sing unto the Lord:
let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving:
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God:
and a great King above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth:
the strength of the hills is His also.
The sea is His, and He made it:
and His hands formed the dry land.
Oh, come, let us worship and bow down:
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.**

**For He is our God:
and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of His hand.**

Psalms 95:1-7

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

PSALMODY

PSALM OF THE DAY - *Psalms 121:1-4, 7-8; antiphon: v. 5*

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in

from this time forth and forevermore.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Lord is your keeper;

the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

[Please sit]

OFFICE HYMN

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Hymn 441

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ²“I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things.”

☐ But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

☐ **♪ Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!**

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

P But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **♪Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!**

[Please stand]

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **♪Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Holy God We Praise Thy Name"

Hymn 250

SERMON

Rev. John Austin

[Please stand]

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS

pg. 35ff.



1 We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of - - - Sab - a - oth!
 3 The noble army of martyrs - - - - - praise Thee;



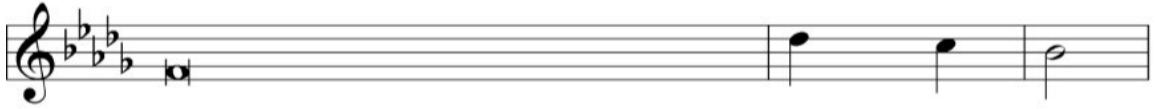
1 All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father ev - er - last - ing.
 2 Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glo - ry.
 3 the holy Church throughout all the world doth ac - knowl - edge Thee.



1 To Thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the - powers there - in;
 2 The glorious company of the Apostles - - - praise Thee;
 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Thine adorable true and only Son,
 4 Thou art the King of Glory, - - - - - O Christ.



1 To Thee cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
 2 The goodly fellowship of the - proph - ets praise Thee;
 3 also the Holy - - - - - Ghost, the Com - fort - er.
 4 Thou art the everlasting Son - of the Fa - ther.



5 When Thou tookest upon Thee to de - - liv - er man,
6 Thou sittest at the right - - - - hand of God
7 We therefore pray Thee, help Thy - - serv - ants,



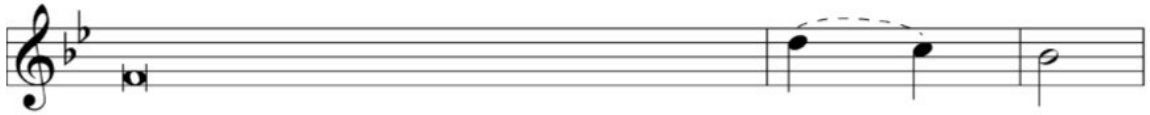
5 Thou didst humble Thyself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 In the glory - - - - of the Fa - ther.
7 whom Thou hast redeem-ed - - with Thy pre-cious blood.



5 When Thou hadst overcome the - - - sharp-ness of death.
6 We believe that - - - - Thou shalt come
7 Make them to be number-ed - - - with Thy saints



5 Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all be - live - ers.
6 to - - - - be our Judge.
7 in glory - - - - ever - last - ing.



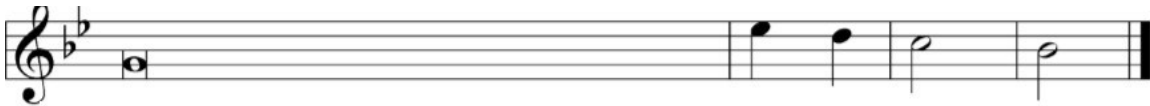
8 O Lord, save Thy people and bless thine - her - i - tage.
9 Vouchesafe, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



8 Govern them and lift - - them up for - ev - er.
9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.



8 Day by day we - - - - magni - fy Thee.
9 O Lord, let Thy mercy be upon us, as our trust is in Thee.



8 And we worship thy name ever - - - world with - out end
9 O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

[Please sit]

RECEIPT OF OFFERINGS

PAUSE TO PONDER: Matthew 22:21 – “Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” So what is Jesus saying? Doesn’t everything belong to God? Yes — and God has a place for everything. Some of what He gives us goes to Caesar. Some must come back to the work of His church. And some goes to support the families He has given us. All belongs to God, and He has work for us to do with what He has given us in the home, in the church and in society.

[Please stand]

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

God of our salvation, You deliver Your Son's work through Your Word in power and in the Holy Spirit. Strengthen the Church's pastors to proclaim Your truth. Increase the faith of all who hear, that they may respond in love, steadfast in their hope. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all truth, from the rising of the sun to its setting, You make known Your salvation in Christ. Bless fathers and mothers as they teach their children Your Word and Your ways. Let them know that there is no God besides You and so rejoice in Your faithfulness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, You appointed Cyrus as Your instrument to return Your people to Jerusalem. Uphold the authorities of our nation in wisdom and integrity, that we might live in peace with a good conscience. Grant that they would make salutary use of the taxes we render, and lead us to recognize them as Your instruments, honoring them as You command. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our help comes from You, who made heaven and earth. You preserve our life. Have mercy on J.C., Wilma, Douglas, Wesley, Louis, and all who are afflicted. Keep them from all evil and shade them from all harm. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, guard those who travel. Keep their going out and their coming in. Protect them from every trouble, prosper their journey according to Your will and make their homecomings joyful. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE

pg. 39

☩ 🎵 Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Mark 10:47

LORD'S PRAYER

📖 Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

☩ **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.

Matthew 6:9-13

SALUTATION

pg. 40

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C *♪* **And with thy spirit.**

COLLECT FOR GRACE

pg. 40

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same with Thy mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run in to any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Thy governance, may be righteous in Thy sight; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

C *♪* **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

pg. 40

P Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C *♪* **Thanks be to God.**

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

C *♪* **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Before the Lord We Bow"

Hymn 575

POSTLUDE

OUTREACH THOUGHT: Matthew 22:15-22: As we worship today, we are reminded that we have very little trouble rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but we have some real trouble rendering unto God the things that are God's. God doesn't have the IRS working for Him to garnish our wages or throw us into jail for non-compliance. Everything we have, everything we are, and everything we hope to be for the rest of eternity is first and foremost a gift from God. The Lord never requires anything from us that He does not first give. We belong to Him. We live and move and have our very being in Him. We bear His image. Does the world around YOU have a clue that God alone is worthy of all your praise and that you will render unto HIM first before the world? Far too many times, we blend in with the ways of the world and our rendering looks just like the world's rendering, rather than ones who belong to God and those who bear His seal. Reach out to the world simply by being who YOU ARE first and foremost!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us this morning for Bible Class led by Pastor Austin in the fellowship hall. Coffee and snacks are always served!

There's a NEW Sunday morning Bible Class for our post-Confirmation youth. If you've been confirmed, this one might just be a good fit for you! Our high school and college age students are invited to join us each Sunday for this discussion based class to dive deeper into the faith and to continue your growth beyond Confirmation and into navigating life as a Christian adult!

Neighbors Night Out is TONIGHT starting at 4PM at the Holy Cross picnic grounds. Join us for a fun evening of community, good food and fellowship. We'll have updates on St. Mark's Medical Center, the upcoming US HWY 77 expansion, and an update on local oil and gas drilling in the area! BBQ Sandwiches, hot dogs and Blue Bell Ice Cream will be served. See you there!

TODAY is the DEADLINE to sign up your child or grandchild for our Children's Christmas Eve program to be held on Sunday evening, December 24th, at 6pm. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. If your child/grandchild will participate, please fill out a form for them and return it to Carol Schramm or the church office mailbox TODAY. Parts will be assigned and handed out in November; practices will start on November 26th.

The Voters Assembly will meet again tomorrow, Monday, October 23rd, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Meeting packets are in voters mailboxes.

Volunteers Needed - Have you ever considered volunteering at Second Chance in LaGrange? Our church works together with the Mt Calvary group on a 6 week rotation. You can come one or more days during our groups rotation. If you're interested in learning more you are invited to come Thursday October 26 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a brief presentation on how you can be a part of this group.

South Lee County VFD will have **BBQ Chickens** and sides at the Serbin Picnic Grounds on Sunday, October 29th. Pick up from 10:00 - 12:00. Order forms are on the usher stands and can be turned in to the church office or you can call the church office at 979.242.3333 to place your order by Oct. 23rd.

GEMS: All girls 5th-12th grade are invited to attend our monthly GEMS (Girls Embracing Mission Service) event next Sunday, October 29, at 2:00 at Holy Cross, Warda, for some devotional time, a fun activity, snacks, and fellowship. We will also start planning for the TX District LWML Convention in Corpus Christi in June 2024! Contact Ruth Meyer at 979-540-9868 with any questions. We hope to see you there!

The Amanda Knox Memorial Scholarship Fund is selling tickets TODAY after church for a pulled pork taco dinner to be held on Monday, November 13th. The meal consists of BBQ pulled pork, tortillas, beans, and coleslaw. Tickets are \$15, presale only. Baked goods will be available for a free-will donation. Plates can be picked up at the Warda picnic grounds from 4:30-6:30pm. To have your plates delivered to La Grange, please call or text 979-966-3166. Only 200 tickets will be sold so get yours TODAY! The Amanda Knox Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to provide full tuition to Faith Lutheran High School to an incoming freshman. A freewill bake sale will also be held in conjunction with the dinner.

Members of Holy Cross a freewill bake sale will be held on November 13th along with the scholarship dinner. If you feel like baking and donating an item or two, we would be so tickled and thrilled. You are welcome to bring anything.

GAME NIGHT The Sunday School and LYF of Mt. Calvary, La Grange, will have a game night TONIGHT from 5-7pm. We will have a meal, games, and pumpkin decorating! All church members are invited, and you are welcome to bring a friend. BYOP (bring your own pumpkin). We will plan to meet at the BBQ pits unless there is bad weather, in which case the game night will move to the MPR. Please come join us!

Christ Lutheran Church in Loebau will hold their annual **Turkey Supper** on Friday, November 3rd, starting at 5PM. Plates are \$15 each, drive-thru to go only. First come, first served; no presales.

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 142 Bible Class: 42
Sunday School: 23

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Oktoberfest

FLHS will be hosting a family friendly event on Saturday, October 28th at the Holy Cross Picnic grounds.

Events for the day include:

German meal of brats, kraut, green beans, noodles, bread and coffee cake for dessert will be served from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm by pre-sale tickets only. \$15/plate *Tickets are available NOW!

Concession stand will also be available for purchase all day with items like hot dogs, warm pretzels, cheese and nuts.

The **NEW Battle of the Brew and Battle of the Vine Contest** submissions need to be made by 10:00 am. See our Facebook page for more information regarding this contest.

Silent Auction items will be available for bidding until 1:15 pm.

Live Auction of items will take place at between 12:15 pm and 1:00 pm.

Children's games and activities will begin at 12:00 pm and include activities such as a bounce house, temporary tattoos, photo backdrop, pumpkin painting, hayride, and more!

42 Domino and Cornhole tournaments will begin at 1:30 pm.

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! (www.flhstx.org)

Cross Country Meet

Faith Lutheran High School is hosting the 5th Annual Private Schools of Central Texas Cross Country Meet on Friday, November 3rd for students in K to 8th Grade with the first race at 2pm. We are excited to host this fun event on our campus!

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Nikki Kueck to learn more.

Follow Us On Facebook!

With a new school year underway, you may want to see the exciting things happening inside here on a daily basis! By "liking" our Facebook page and "sharing" our posts, you will be in the loop on all the great things happening and you can share them with your friends!

Altar Flowers



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Justin Lehmann's birthday on October 26th by David and Linda Lehmann.

PRAYER REQUESTS



Wilma Kaiser, at home, recovering from an infection

J.C. Kaiser, scheduled for surgery on Wednesday to remove a cancerous spot on his ear

Douglas Beck, dad of Pastor Beck, waiting on test results

Wesley Cervenka, brother of Debbie Knox, cancer has spread

Louis Jakiel (son of Wendy Wagner's co-worker) making good strides in recovery following a serious motorcycle accident several weeks ago

Those who serve today: October 22, 2023

Rev. John Austin	Guest Pastor
Mrs. Carol Schramm	Organist
Mrs. Jane Chapman	Greeter
Mr. John Gay	Lector
Mrs. Linda Hobratschk	Audio/Video System
Lexi Ahrens & Hailey Bamsch	Acolytes
Elders on Duty	
Mr. Jonathan Kueck	
Mr. Calvin Mersiovsky	
Mr. Dennis Pietsch	

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	4:00 p.m.	Neighbors Night Out
MONDAY	7:00 p.m.	Voters Assembly
WEDNESDAY	10:30 a.m.	FLHS Chapel
	11:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
	6:00 p.m.	Second Chance presentation in Fell. Hall
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Pastor Beck at Epiphany

Soli Deo Gloria

(To God alone be Glory)