



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Warda, Texas | Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

(979) 242-3333 | holycrosswarda.com | holycross@cvctx.com

600 FM 1482, Giddings TX 78942

PO Box 69, Warda TX 78960

So must
the
Son of Man
be lifted up



1873-2024

151 Years of God's Grace

Sharing with Everyone the Good News of Salvation Through Jesus Christ!

Divine Service
9:00 a.m.
Holy Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays

Bible Class &
Sunday School
10:15 a.m.

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

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

✠ 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:

Jesus Is Lifted Up on the Cross so that We May Look to Him and Live

The people sinned by speaking “*against God and against Moses,*” and the Lord called them to repentance by sending fiery serpents, which “*bit the people, so that many people of Israel died*” (Num. 21:4–6). When the people confessed their sin, the Lord provided a means of rescue from death. He instructed Moses to “*make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole,*” so that “*if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live*” (Num. 21:8–9). Thus, God sent His Son into the world, in the likeness of our sin and death, and lifted Him up on the pole of the cross, that whoever looks to Him in faith “*may have eternal life*” (John 3:14–16). By His cross, “*the light has come into the world,*” not for condemnation, but “*that the world might be saved through him*” (John 3:17–19). While we “*were dead in the trespasses and sins*” in which we once lived (Eph. 2:1), God loved us, calling us to repentance and raising us up with Christ to live “*with him in the heavenly places*” (Eph. 2:4–6).

PRELUDE - *Selected*

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Today Thy Mercy Calls Us”

Hymn 279

[Please stand]

INVOCATION

pg. 5ff

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

C **♪ Amen.**

Matthew 28:20

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **♪ Who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C **♪ And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

Psalm 32:5

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end, that by Thy grace, we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy up on and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **♪ Amen.**

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT - *Psalm 27:3-5; antiphon v. 1*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

GLORIA PATRI

Pg. 6ff.

C **♪** **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.**

KYRIE

C **♪** **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Mark 10:47

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C **♪** **And with thy spirit.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **♪** **Amen.**

[Please sit]

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

[Please stand and face the pastor in the center of the nave, a sign of Christ's presence among His people]

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.


C **♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For eve-


ryone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C  Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

pg. 12

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  everlasting. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY “God Loved the World So that He Gave”

Hymn 245


SERMON

“Raised Up”

[Please stand]

OFFERTORY

pg. 12

C  Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Psalm 51:10-12

[Please sit]

RECEIPT OF OFFERINGS

PAUSE TO PONDER: Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Even the good we do in this world is a gift from God, prepared beforehand for us to do. And this too is a gift! For isn't doing good also a good thing for the one who does it? So from first to last, from the Lord's free salvation given to us to the good works He's prepared for us, everything is a gift of God's grace.

[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.

O Lord God, draw us into Your light. Expose wherever we, like Your people of old, have thought, spoken and acted against You, that in repentance we might look to Your Son lifted up on the cross and be saved from Your righteous wrath. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, You gave Your only Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Bless the work of missionaries as they carry this Gospel to the ends of the earth, that many may hear of Your love in Christ Jesus and be saved through Him. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You have set Joseph, our president, and Greg, our governor, as authorities over us for our good. Bless and sustain them with all they need to govern us, that we might be ruled wisely and in accord with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You had Moses lift up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, thereby foreshadowing Your own Son's lifting up on the cross. Teach us to hear in the Old Testament the promises and pictures of the coming Christ, who is their Savior and ours. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, You are our light and our salvation. Hide in Your shelter Wilma, Jeanette, Travis, Whitney, Wesley, Charles, Sandra, Clayton, and all who suffer in body, mind or soul. Keep them in their day of trouble from falling into faithless fear, and uphold them with Your peace in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever, we lift up our voices in thanksgiving. You have redeemed us out of trouble and gathered us here to feed us, that our souls may not faint within us. Satisfy the longing of our hearts with Your Son's good things, His body and blood, that we may abide in Your eternal peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, You have made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Cause Your Spirit to be at work in us, that we may not carry out the sinful desires of our bodies and minds, but be Your workmanship in Christ Jesus, walking in the good works He has prepared for us. 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

pg. 14

P Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

C **♪ Amen.**

BENEDICTION

pg. 14

P The Lord bless Thee and keep Thee. The Lord make His face shine upon Thee and be gracious unto Thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon Thee † and give Thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C **♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Hymn 54

POSTLUDE

OUTREACH THOUGHT: John 3:14-21: When we think about telling others about Jesus, sometimes we get overwhelmed. "Where do I start?" we ask ourselves. A good starting point is John 3:16, sometimes known as "The Gospel in a Nutshell." Here, the entirety of the Gospel can be found in one short and memorable verse. God loves you – what a wonderful message to share!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Morning Bible Class during Lent: - Join us for a study and conversation about the Lord's Supper. What is it? Why is it a good thing for Christians to receive? And, on a practical level, does it matter how frequently it is celebrated? This study will look at a book called *The Blessings of Weekly Communion*. Our intention is to have a conversation about the benefits and blessings of weekly communion. So, please, come! Bring your questions and concerns as we discuss this important question together!

The Post Oak Zone LWML Spring Rally is today at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fedor. Registration will begin at 1:30 with the rally starting at 2:00. Ingathering will be funds collected to send the GEMS group to convention this summer in Corpus Christi. Refreshments will follow.

Socks and Undies Collection - During the month of March, the Ladies Aid will be collecting new socks and underwear to support the work of Orphan Grain Train. Men's, women's, boy's and girl's—all sizes of new socks and undies are needed. A collection bin has been placed in the hallway next to the AMEN box to place these items. Any questions? Call Cindy Heselmeyer at 713-628-1056.

Wood Splitting - All picnic wood crew, BBQ and Chicken cookers are asked to grab your favorite chain saw and gloves and join us at the picnic grounds at 3PM next Sunday, March 17th, to cut and split wood for the picnic. Unfortunately, we have lost quite a few trees down there again this past year. Getting them cut up and split now, before it gets so hot, will give us plenty of wood to use for the picnic. Please bring your own beverages and/or snacks. Any questions? Call Scott Schramm at 966-2394.

Easter Lilies - If you would like to give an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one or as a living tribute for the Easter season, please fill out a form from the table in the narthex and return it to the church office. Cost is \$16.00. Payment of flowers must accompany form. Deadline for ordering is Thursday, March 21st. *Please note, a set amount of flowers are preordered and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Be sure and order yours early.*

Our March Game Day will be held on Thursday, March 21st, from 12PM-2PM in the fellowship hall with a light lunch provided. Come join us for a fun afternoon of games and visiting with friends!

The Warda Bunch Show Fund (supporters of Lee County Junior Livestock Show exhibitors) will have a BBQ Pork Fundraiser on Saturday, April 13th. BBQ Pork Butts will be sold by the piece. Each piece will be approximately 2.5-4lbs for \$10.50/lb. 16oz. Cups of sauce are available for \$3.00 each. Orders will be taken for the number of pieces you would like (not by the pound). Pick up at the Holy Cross pic-

nic grounds from 4PM-6PM. PreOrders only by signing up on the page on the bulletin board or by calling Larry Teinert at (979) 542-8372 or the Holy Cross church office at (979) 242-3333 by WEDNESDAY APRIL 3rd. Proceeds go toward continued support of exhibitors at the Lee County Junior Livestock Show.

*All the Warda Bunch exhibitors were able to sell their animals at the Giddings Jr. Livestock Show. They would like to thank all the individuals that support the Ward Bunch and the youth!

The Manheim Parish Hall Renovation Fund BBQ Chicken fundraiser will be held next Sunday, March 17th, at the Lincoln Community Center. Drive-thru only from 10:30 a.m. until sold out. BBQ Chickens are \$14 each, pints of noodles and beans are \$3 each and a cup of sauce is \$2.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society annual Fish Fry fundraiser will be held next Sunday, March 17th. Drive thru at the Serbin picnic grounds starting at 10AM. Tickets are \$15 each and can be bought at the church office, the Museum or at First National Bank in Giddings. Or, simply reserve your plate by calling the museum at 979-366-2441.

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

New Student Registration

Registration for 2024-2025 is underway. Four new students have already enrolled and we are looking to add more students to our family. You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at www.flhstx.org.

Scholarship Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted for an academic-based scholarship from the Amanda (Zoch) Knox Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund will pay for the full tuition for an incoming 9th grade student of Faith Lutheran beginning in the Fall of 2024. Applications are available from Mrs. Kueck or from Cyndy Zoch (cyndy.zoch@gmail.com) and are due May 1, 2024.

Spring Break

March 11-15 is Spring Break at FLHS. We will have limited office hours throughout the week as we prepare for the final push of the school year.

Spring Raffle Success

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Spring Raffle. Congratulations to this year's winners!! This year's ticket sales totaled over \$27,000!! Thank you for your support!!

FLHS Annual Good Friday Bake Sale

Faith Lutheran High School will be hosting its Annual Good Friday Bake Sale on March 29th at the Classic Bank parking lot in Giddings! Cookies, pies, cakes, kolaches, cinnamon rolls, homemade noodles, homemade bread, and more will be available from 8 AM till noon, or until we sell out.

BAKERS ARE NEEDED! We need your help to make this event a success! Donations of any type of baked goods or homemade treats are welcome!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent member, you may have Choice Dollars that allow you to designate where the funds go, and by sending them to Faith, you can help us continue in our mission of Instilling Wisdom Today for Faithful Leaders Tomorrow! The deadline to designate your choice dollars from 2023 is **March 31, 2024**.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Conway Whited, recovering back at home, thankful for successful surgery

Wilma Kaiser, at home, recovering from surgery

Jeanette Schramm, recovering from successful surgery on Thursday

Travis Miertschin, brother of Sandra Matthijetz, recovering from heart surgery

Whitney Swearingen, daughter-in-law of Tommy & Lana Swearingen, still fighting an infection, very weak

Wesley Cervenka, brother of Debbie Knox, under hospice care

Charles Kunze, diagnosed with a medical condition

Sandra Behrens, friend of Roger Heinrich, in Warm Springs Rehab center in Luling for physical therapy

Clayton Wolf, son of Allen & Dolores Wolf and brother of Melissa Alford, undergoing treatments at MD Anderson

Our sympathy to Allene Schramm and her family on the death of her uncle, Maurice Boettcher, on March 2nd. His funeral is this afternoon at 3PM at Fayette Memorial Funeral Home in La Grange.

Those who serve today: March 10, 2024

Rev. Dustin Beck	Pastor
Mrs. Ann Bamsch	Organist
Mrs. Melissa Alford	Greeter
Mr. Cory Knox	Lector
Mr. Curtis Wedgeworth	Audio/Video System
Carter Mrozek	Acolyte

Elders on Duty
Mr. Cory Knox & Mr. David Weishuhn

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:00-12:30	Pick Up Youth Pork Steak Plates
	2:00 p.m.	LWML Post Oak Zone Rally in Fedor
WEDNESDAY	10:30 a.m.	Lent Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Lent Worship
THURSDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sewing Circle
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Jr. Confirmation
	3:00 p.m.	Wood Splitting at the picnic grounds

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 154 Bible Class: 55 Sunday School: 16

Soli Deo Gloria

(To God alone be Glory)