



CROSSlink

2107 3 Oaks Rd, Cary, IL 60013
847.639.1702 Church Office
847.639.6533 Preschool Office
www.HolyCrossCary.org

Worship Services:
Saturdays 5:30PM (Sanctuary)
Sundays 8:30AM (Sanctuary)
Sundays 10:45AM (LOFT)

March 2018

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Jesus at Prayer" John 17



Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

Prayer is important. Very important. So much so that God commands us to pray. And He backs up this command with a promise: He hears and He answers.

For weak, inconsistent, failure-prone sinners living in this world, prayer is an obvious thing to do. You need God's help. At every turn.

What about Jesus? He prayed. Many times. It was His continuous practice. Luke 5:16 has Him, according to the Greek, continuously withdrawing for the purpose of prayer.

Jesus' prayer-life must have left quite an impression on all who either saw or heard Him pray; so much so that His disciples once requested "Lord, teach us to pray". (Luke 11:1) Jesus responded by teaching them the Lord's Prayer.

Of all the prayers that Jesus prayed (including those prayed while in Gethsemane and while on the Cross), the longest prayer and perhaps the most profound prayer is that prayer known as "The High Priestly Prayer". It takes up an entire chapter in John's Gospel (John 17).

It was Maundy Thursday evening. Jesus was well aware of the sufferings that were yet to come. He had accomplished some necessities that night; necessities which illustrate the Gospel: His love for poor sinners. Necessities such as washing the feet of the Twelve. And instituting the Lord's Supper. Jesus had also preached a sermon to His disciples that night. He was preparing them for the struggles they would face. In my opinion, the sermon of Jesus in John 14-16 remains the best sermon ever preached! Look at the introduction to this sermon (John 14:1-6). Then check out the conclusion (John 16:33). Nothing better!

Immediately following the Eucharistic Meal, Jesus prayed. Apparently out loud so that His disciples could listen in on this conversation with His Father. (John 17:1; John 18:1)

This prayer could very well have tempered the prayer that would follow in the coming hours in Gethsemane.

Jesus prayed this post-Communion/pre-Gethsemane prayer (John 17) for three distinct persons/groups of persons: Himself, His disciples, and all Christians everywhere for all time.

Jesus prays for Himself (1-5).

1. His work of salvation was finished (verse 3).
2. By doing this He glorifies His Father (verse 4).
3. The Cross is the way of glorifying the Father (John 12:23-24).

Notice the “gives” of this part of His prayer. He “gives”

1. Authority (verse 2)
2. Eternal life (verse 3) to those the Father had “given” to His Son.
3. The work to be done. (verse 4)

Each believer in Christ is God’s “love gift” to Jesus! (John 6:37)

Jesus prays for His disciples (6-19). This is the “Sanctification” part of the prayer. This means “to be set apart” for God’s work.

Jesus would be removing His visible presence from His disciples forty days following His resurrection. The disciples would need this prayer to keep serving in a hostile world!

Jesus prays:

1. To keep the disciples. (verse 11)
2. To keep them united. (verse 11)
3. To keep them in the faith (verse 12).

The disciples would need to fight a worldly mindset. We are in the world, but certainly not of it. (1 John 2:15-17).

The disciples would be Christ’s representatives on earth. (verse 18). They would need His prayers!

Jesus prays for all believers (20-26)

He was praying for you and me! This is the “glorification” part of His prayer. Jesus has already given us this glory (verse 22).

Jesus prays for:

1. Unity (verse 21-for the second time now. The Pauline Epistles indicate a problem of division in the Church).
2. There is One, holy, Christian Church! Denominations are important, even necessary, but this does not “ruin” the unity of the Holy Christian Church! In the Third Article we confess to “believe in the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints”.
3. A prayer for heaven! That all believers be taken to eternal glory! (verse 24). Jesus had already touched on this in His Maundy Thursday Sermon (John 14:1-6). The Lord’s Prayer even ends with “deliver us from evil”- a petition for us to be taken out of this valley of tears into God’s heaven!
4. A prayer reminding all Christians that Jesus is indwelling! (see Galatians 2:20).

This is quite a prayer! This is a summary of this prayer. Jesus prays for:

1. Salvation (verses 1-5)
2. Sanctification (verses 6-19)
3. Glorification (verses 20-26)

Jesus prays for you! He already saved you for all eternity. Now He wants you to be safe until you finally reach Home!

Under the Blood of Jesus,
Pastor Bill Metzger

Lenten Worship Continues

This year's Lenten Midweek series is called "Return from Exile". "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness." (Joel 2:13)

This year's series features the movement from where we are right now to where God is taking us by His unconditional love and forgiveness:

March 7 - "Out of Egypt: Through the Water" Exodus 14:13-31; Mark 1:9-13

March 14 - "Tree to Tree: The Tree of Life to the Cross" Genesis 2:15; 3:22-24; John 3:14-15

March 21 - "The Wilderness to the Promised Land" Joshua 3:1-6; Matthew 3:13; 4:1-2

Join us at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday	March 29	7:00 PM	There will be no worship service on Saturday, March 31
Good Friday	March 30	Noon and 7:00 PM	
Easter	April 1	8:00 AM in the sanctuary	
		9:30 AM in the sanctuary	
		10:45 AM in the LOFT	

Easter Prayer Vigil

Once again we will be holding a prayer vigil starting at 8:00 PM on Good Friday and ending at 6:00 AM on Easter morning. The vigil is divided into one hour time slots. Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the narthex and the LOFT lobby. Please consider being part of 35 hours of continuous prayer by choosing a time that works for you.

News from the Preschool

Jean Hoger, Director

The preschool kids enjoyed "Superhero Saturday" at Cary Gymnastics on February 24. The kids and sidekicks dressed up and enjoyed the afternoon tumbling, sliding, zip lining, and jumping in foam pits. In the past our Dad's Night was a mini-fun fair but we switched it up this year and it ended up being a big blessing. Our 4s head teacher, Laurie Charles, is still recovering from surgery. There's no way we could have pulled off the fun fair this year! The offsite event for the kids and dads and grandpas was easier and more fun in my opinion!

Alyssa McFaul has been in with the 3 Year Olds while Laurie is out. The children (and parents) know her and trust her. I'm thankful that she's doing a super job with them! It's evident she is enjoying the little kids.

March will go by quickly because we have spring break the last week. During March we will learn about Dinosaurs and Space. We will also go through the Bible stories of Holy Week. Before the kids go on break, they will rejoice together knowing Jesus is Alive!

We are still registering for next fall. If you know any families with young kids, send them our way.

Easter Egg Hunt - Sunday, March 18

Holy Cross' annual Easter Egg Hunt is planned for March 18 from 9:30-10:30 AM in the lower level of the LOFT. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held outside on the west end of the parking lot (weather permitting). Games, snacks and a craft to follow. Bring friends too! Great way to spread the message of Jesus' love by inviting friends.

There will be an age appropriate hunt too. Hidden eggs for the older kids and more obvious for the younger kids. All ages welcome!

NOTE: If you'd like to donate items for the eggs, we're looking for individually wrapped candy or other trinkets. Preferred without peanuts, but a little of that is fine! Leave by the church office for Tania German by March 9.

OWLS Hoots and Happenings



OWLS will be attending a student play at Prairie Ridge High School in Crystal Lake on the afternoon of March 1. Al and Nancy Israel have been making the arrangements. If you signed up to go and need a ride, please call Diane Perrone at 847-650-6794. This event is free and concludes with dessert! How sweet!

OWLS meeting on March 15 will be at noon in the lower level of the LOFT. Mel and Barb Molzer will provide beverages, dessert and a devotion. Bring a sandwich for yourself and join us. We will be making up Easter bags for Holy Cross shut-ins and need your contributions and help with assembly. Check the bulletin board for a list of items needed for the bags. After we finish this work we will play cards, dominoes and other games. Bring your favorite and join us for an afternoon with friends.

LWML Lenten Inspiration Prayer Breakfast

Holy Cross Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be hosting a Lenten Inspiration Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 3 at 9:00 AM in the fellowship hall. All women are welcome! Please join us for a morning of fellowship and worship. We are also gathering paper products for the Community Crisis Center. Watch your News & Notes for a complete list of needed items. A sign up sheet for the breakfast can be found on the table in the fellowship hall. There is no charge. If you have any questions, or would like more information about LWML, please contact Viki Dettmann at vikis1234@hotmail.com or 847-639-6333.

Faith Lutheran High School Play

"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" is being performed at Faith Lutheran High School in Crystal Lake Friday March 9 - Sunday March 11 (Friday and Saturday at 7:00 PM, Sunday at 2:00 PM) and you are all invited! Tickets are \$7.50 each and can be bought ahead of time in the school office or at the door.

Memorials

February memorials were given in memory of:

Jo Crossley
Dorothy Jennings
Erika Olson
Ruth and Cliff Steuer

Our Financial Situation

No matter what the circumstances, God continues to bless us as individuals and as a church. God expects us to be good stewards of the gifts He has given us. To keep members informed of our financial situation, information is provided below. \$7,019.23 in undesignated giving is needed each week to meet the 2018 weekly budgeted expenses. \$6,274.19 is the monthly CROSS loan payment.

2018 Unrestricted offering YTD	\$48,450.01	2018 CROSS giving YTD	\$8,106.00
2018 Needed to meet budget YTD	49,134.61	2018 CROSS needed YTD	10,135.23
Shortfall	(\$684.60)	Shortfall	(\$2,029.23)

March Birthdays

If your birthday is in March and does not appear below, we don't have your birthday in our database. Please contact the church office to add that information.

Carol Bruhn	03/01	Marilyn Forman	03/18
Pat Donahue	03/01	Marcy Coffman	03/20
Lori Deasy	03/02	Greg Goodrich	03/20
Kevin Tobin	03/04	Mark Harmon	03/21
Kristine Barchard	03/06	Greg Harmon	03/22
Pete Henning	03/07	Joyce Heffernan	03/23
Trevor Cichon	03/07	Janet Beetham	03/23
Kathy Oleksy	03/09	Susan Treanor	03/23
Anne Boone	03/10	Kiara Martel	03/24
Kim Celli	03/12	Linda Hess	03/27
Danielle Devereux	03/12	Esther Olson	03/29
Connor Fox	03/13	Debbie Wagner	03/29
Kristen Landowski	03/14	Sue Penkava	03/30
Heather Michels	03/16	Sandy Hauser	03/30
John Ewert	03/16	Benjamin Thompson	03/30
Bob Pradelski	03/17		

EASTER PLANT ORDER

NAME: _____

I'M GIVING IN HONOR OF: _____

I'M GIVING IN MEMORY OF: _____

I'M GIVING TO THE GLORY OF OUR RISEN SAVIOR

I HAVE ENCLOSED MY PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$_____ **(\$13.50 each)**
Please make check payable to Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Thank you for helping to beautify our church as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior!

**Please return this form, along with payment,
to the church office or collection plate by SUNDAY, MARCH 11.**

Easter plants can be taken after the last service on Easter morning.

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Noon OWLS	2	3 5:30P Worship
4 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Youth/Adult Bible Studies 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	5	6 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:00P Bible study	7 5:45P Handbells 7:00P Lenten Worship 7:45P Choir 7:45P Kids for Christ 7:45P Confirmation	8 10:00A Prayer Shawl	9	10 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
11 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Youth/Adult Bible Studies 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	12 6:30P Board of Elders	13 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:00P Bible study	14 5:45P Handbells 7:00P Lenten Worship 7:45P Choir 7:45P Kids for Christ 7:45P Confirmation	15 OWLS	16	17 5:30P Worship
18 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:30A Easter Egg Hunt 9:45A Youth/Adult Bible Studies 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 6:00P Communion Retreat	19 7:00P Governing Board	20 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:00P Bible study 7:30P Dartball game	21 5:45P Handbells 7:00P Lenten Worship 7:45P Choir 7:45P Kids for Christ 7:45P Confirmation	22 10:00A Prayer Shawl	23	24 5:30P Worship
25 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Youth/Adult Bible Studies 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	26	27 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:00P Bible study	28 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir	29 7:00P Maundy Thursday worship	30 Noon & 7:00P Good Friday worship 8:00P Prayer vigil begins	31 Prayer vigil all day No evening worship

2018