



HOLY LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4210 S. Chambers Road Aurora, CO 80014
office@holylovelutheran.org www.holylovelutheran.org
303-693-1162 www.facebook.com/HolyLoveLutheran



The Seed

Mark 4:1-34

**Second Sunday After Epiphany
January 19, 2020**



HOLY LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4210 South Chambers Road

Aurora, CO 80014

(303) 693-1162

Pastor: Matthew Weber

January 19, 2020

Second Sunday after Epiphany



PRELUDE

(8:30) LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL
(11:00) MAKE ME A CHANNEL

PRAISE SONG
TEMPLE/HAYES

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen.

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God who searches us and knows us,
*you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves
instead of walking humbly with you.
Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

Receive the promise of baptism:
You are a beloved child of God;
your sins are forgiven ☩
Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

COME, YOU FAITHFUL, RAISE THE STRAIN



- 1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal;
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

GLORY TO GOD



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



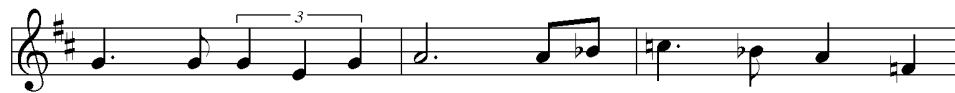
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
 I For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 II you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.
 ☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. God of the Word,

in the parable of the sower you showed us how your word can take root and grow within us. Nurture the seeds of your word in our hearts and help us to grow in faith and love. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

PSALM 126

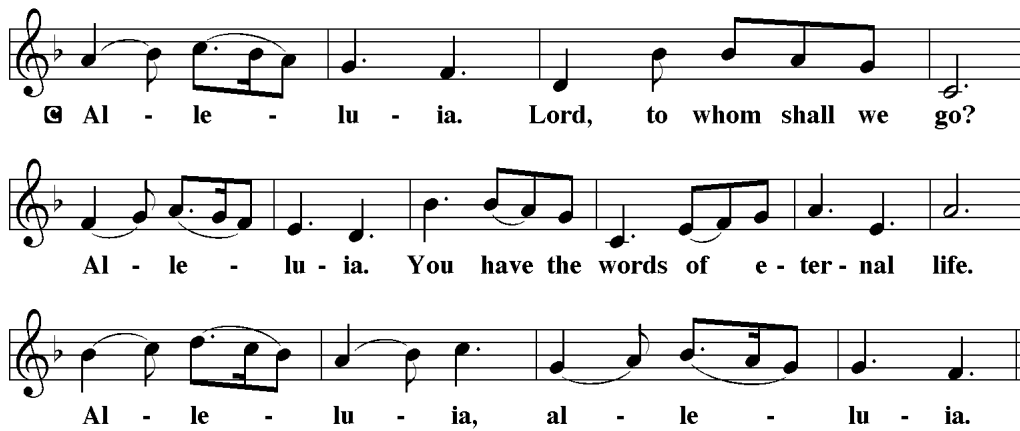
after the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

MARK 4:1-34

before the reading

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the Fourth chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

after the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Following the sermon, we pause for a few moments of silence, expecting that God's Holy Spirit will continue to speak to us

HYMN OF THE DAY

DRAWN TO THE LIGHT

1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
 2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
 3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the

heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
 dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
 one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
 pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
 gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

Refrain

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the

light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a

sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
 Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
 Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

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 into hell.*

*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

God of revelation, as we gather in praise for the gracious mystery of your Son, we remember the many needs of your church and your world.

after each petition:

Lord, in your mercy.
hear our prayer.

the prayers conclude:

Guide us on the path of salvation, O God, that the radiance and power of your Holy Spirit working in the world will gather together all peoples and nations in one community to offer you worship and proclaim your splendor.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

we greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying "Peace be with you" or similar words.

SHARING OF LIFE AND MINISTRY

MEAL

OFFERING

**(8:30) LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING
(11:00) YOU ARE MY HIDING PLACE**

**PRAISE SONG
LEDNER/HAYES**

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

LET THE VINYARDS



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
*through your goodness
you have blessed us with these gifts:
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord.
Amen.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up you hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

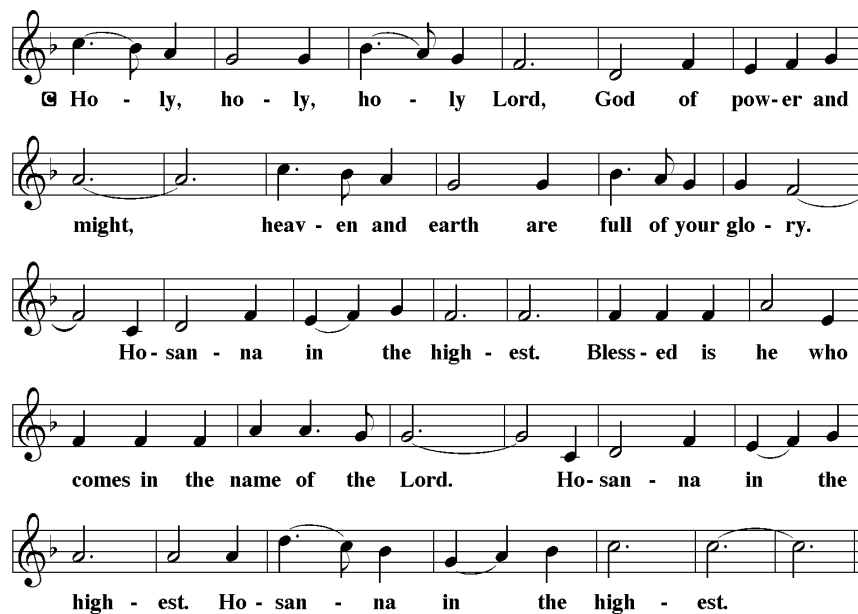
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is our duty and delight ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, Gracious Father, endless is your mercy and eternal is your reign ...

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, all glory and
honor is yours, Almighty God
now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your mercy, and teach us 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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Behold who you are, become what you receive.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

Christ is the Host at this feast; All are welcome at the table of God's grace. The Chalice contains wine; red wine and white grape juice are provided in the trays. After you receive the bread, you may either dip (intinct) the bread in the chalice and receive the bread and wine together; or, you may eat the bread, and drink either from the chalice or from a small glass in the tray. Please let the server know if you require a gluten-free wafer.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST



- 1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.

Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911
 Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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THE BLESSING

after all have returned to their places

The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, Almighty God,

that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him,
and abound in thanksgiving;
And the blessing of the Holy Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen

SENDING HYMN

SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing to God ev-er-liv-ing,
the peo-ple of our God from this dwell-ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face—
The sup-per is end-ed. Oh, now be ex-tend-ed
our faith ev-er shar-ing, in love ev-er car-ing,
the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race.
The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing
to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

GLORIFY THY NAME

ADKINS/HAYES

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Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Rev. Darrel Peterson, Bob, Majeski (Karne Bentz's cousin), Butch Abbott, Verne Roenfeldt, Sydney and Zach Brinkmann (Earl and Sue Weihe's niece and nephew), Lynda White (daughter of Jim & Colleen Wood), John Harman, Cal Hosman, Rita Hinze (Dorothea Madry's mother), Jean Roenfeldt, Jim Cobb (friend of Vicki & Cal Hosman), Ron Sadecky (Cindy Hermanson's step father), Joe Fjell (Beth Whitney's brother), Christa Stone (Katherine Allen's mother), Ryan Rickard (Laverne Rickard's son), Dale Fjell (cousin of Beth Whitney), Maggie Condie, Brittney (Steve Knuth's niece), Johnna Tavera (Shane Allen's sister), Sue Last, Gary Mindt (Lori Rieger's uncle), Paulette Traver (Hal & Sherry Traver's sister-in-law), Vicki Hosman, Miguel Martinez, Rick Thorstad, Agnes Spino, Liam Sinclair, Jon Zimmer, Shirley Kutowy, Julie Christianson, Brenda Allen, Jenny L. Staggs, Dewy Hertz

Pray for our Military:

Jason Voss (Lorie Eby's nephew), Ryan Winter, (Eric & Cindy Hermanson's Son in-Law), Joshua Specht & Jeremiah Specht (Steve & Leanne Alfrey's Sons), Shayne Braunlich (former student of Beth Whitney), Aaron Clabaugh (Diana Stigleman's nephew), Stephen Terrell, Heath Terrell, Trevor Toft, Jason Anderson, Chase Pofahl, Tyler Pofahl, Lara Pitt, Alicia Phelps, Trevor Koch, Josh Moyer, Jesse Newell, Shirley Kidoroy




Welcome Guests

If you are a guest this morning, WELCOME!

Please sign the "Friendship Pad" as it is passed to you.

As you join us in worship, our hope is that you will find renewed strength in God.

**If you would like to be added to the weekly
e-mail list to find out what's going on at Holy Love, e-mail the office at:
office@holylovelutheran.org**

Holy Love Calendar		
<p>Today at Holy Love Lutheran Church</p> <p>8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service</p> <p><i>A Full Calendar can be viewed on our website at www.holylovelutheran.org/happenings</i></p>		<p>This Week at Holy Love Lutheran Church</p> <p>Mon, Jan 20 5:30 pm Praise Song 6:30 pm NA</p> <p>Tues, Jan 21 6 pm Halo Girls Corps 7 pm Church Council</p> <p>Wed, Jan 22 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm NA Meeting & Support 7pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>Thurs, Jan 23 7 pm Holy Knit Wits</p> <p>Fri, Jan 24 7 am Men's Breakfast @ Village Inn 6 pm NA Meeting</p> <p>Sat, Jan 25 8 am Easter Seals</p>
<p>Today's Worship Assistants</p>	Organist	Michelle Kneipper
	Special Music	Praise Song
	Lector	Beth Newsom
	Assisting Minister	Julie Hansen
	Acolyte	
	Ushers (8:30)	Jeremiah Jones
	Ushers (11:00)	Lindy Whitney
	Communion Assistant	
	Altar Guild	Val Smith
	Fellowship Hosts	Finance Team
<div>  </div> <p>If you would like to add someone on to the Prayer List, please complete a prayer request card found in the pew or email Lori at office@holylovelutheran.org.</p> <p>The deadline for items to appear in the bulletin and the E-News is Tuesday morning. The deadline for the Prayer Chain is Thursday morning. Thank you.</p>		



Holy Love will be conducting our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at approximately 12:15 p.m. following the second service. We will discuss the proposed 2020 budget, elect officers and discuss any other items that are presented. Copies of the preliminary Annual Report are available in the Narthex or contact Lori for a .pdf copy at office@holylovelutheran.org.

We will again be having a pot-luck luncheon prior to the meeting and we are asking that everyone bring a dish to share.

This is your chance to participate in the business matters and the future of Holy Love by sharing your suggestions, concerns, and opinions. Please plan to join us.



Women of Holy Love are invited to join our Bible study and enjoy fellowship, treats and lessons from the Bible. We will meet in the youth room from 9:15-11:00 am.

Studies are found in the ELCA Gather Magazine. Extra copies will be provided.

Our next study date is:
January 22nd at 9:15 am.

A complete list of study dates can be found on the Holy Love calendar at www.holylovelutheran.org

If you have questions, please contact Peggy Apmann at 303-693-1802 or rgammg@yahoo.com



New Members

Reception of New Members

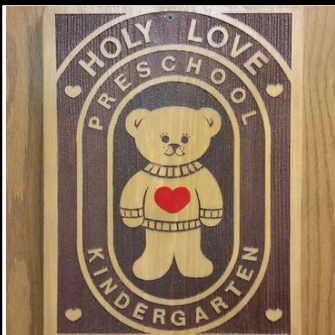
Holy Love will be receiving new members on Sunday, January, 26th during our regular worship services.

If you would like to join our congregation or would like more information, please contact Pastor Matthew at pastor@holylovelutheran.org or call the office at 303-693-1162.



James Hersch, our favorite visiting Singer/Songwriter will be appearing at Holy Love Lutheran for an annual concert on Feb 1st.

This event starts with a soup supper at 6 pm and a concert will immediately follow. Please mark the date and look for more information to come.



It's that time again for the 2020-2021 Preschool and Kindergarten Registration. Church members may begin registering Sunday, January 26th and will have the opportunity to also sign-up on Sunday, February 2nd.

Please look for a Board member in the Narthex between services to fill out the necessary form. Registration fee is \$80.00.

Join us for the next
Family Game Night &
Potluck Dinner,
February 8th from 5:30 - 8 pm.

All Ages are welcome!
Bring a dish and a game to share.



**Save the Date: Friday, April 24th
7am - 12pm**

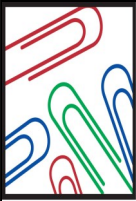
Both Medical and Non-Medical Volunteers are needed to make this community event a success. This year, we are also in need of a Medical Coordinator and Lab Supervisor. If you, or anyone you know, has some medical experience and would be interested in being a part of the planning team - we could use you! We meet monthly starting in January through the fair. Outside of this, all of the planning can be done from your home on your own time. If you are interested, please send an email to keely9healthfair@gmail.com



The Cupboard is Bare!

We alternate delivering donations once a month to either Aurora Interfaith or Peace with Christ Lutheran Church. Therefore, the pantry can be full one day and empty the next. Let's keep it filled so those in need can have a meal.

When donating, please look at the dates on the items to make sure they are still good and consider items such as canned meat, peanut or almond butter and nuts, canned fruits and vegetables, beans, cereal, oatmeal, pasta and sauces. Thanks!



Office Hours

The Holy Love Church Office Hours Mon-Fri 9 am - 1 pm

Contact Information

Church Office Phone - 303.693.1162
www.holylovelutheran.org
www.facebook.com/holylovelutheran

Pr. Matthew

email - pastor@holylovelutheran.org
cell phone (call or text) - 720.301.9411
facebook message - facebook.com/hikerrev

Interim Faith Formation Director:

Amy Schmuck

Cell phone - 720.682.4768
email - youth@holylovelutheran.org

Office Administrator: Lori Rieger
email - office@holylovelutheran.org

Preschool & Kindergarten 303.693.8519

*Holy Love Evangelical Lutheran Church
is committed to proclaiming
and living the Good News of
God's love in Jesus Christ as we
gather for worship and study,
and scatter for witness and
service to our neighbors.*



**Hearing Loop installed.
Switch hearing aid to T-coil.**

Worship



Worship Assistants Sign up Online

You can sign up on our website under the "Worship" or "Youth and Family" tabs. If you have questions, or need help, please see Debbie Anderson.



Sunday Flowers

*The flower charts for 2020
are posted in the Narthex.*

Please consider providing 1 or 2 bouquets for a Sunday morning. Add your name and possibly a short note about why you are providing flowers, place a check made out to Holy Love Lutheran Church for \$35 per bouquet and "flowers for (date)" on the memo line, in the offering plate or on the desk in the office. Bring the bouquet(s) home after church that Sunday or deliver to a shut-in, etc.

Social Media Disclaimer

As our world is constantly changing, so too does the way we communicate with one another. Many people rely on social and electronic mediums for information and to stay connected. We want to see what's going on, not just hear or read. With that said, please know that pictures of Holy Love's functions may be posted on social media or on our website. Should you wish not to be shown in these posts, please provide a signed and dated letter to be kept on file in the office, stating your desire not to be shown in our publications. Thank you.

Do You Get Holy Love's Weekly Email?

If not, you can easily sign up right now!

Text
HOLYLOVE
to 22828 to get started.



Message and data rates may apply.

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Today's First Reading can be found in the Bible in the pew.

Mark 4:1-34

Jesus began to teach beside the lake again. Such a large crowd gathered that he climbed into a boat there on the lake. He sat in the boat while the whole crowd was nearby on the shore. He said many things to them in parables. While teaching them, he said, "Listen to this! A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path; and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. When the sun came up, it scorched the plants; and they dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked the seeds, and they produced nothing. Other seed fell into good soil and bore fruit. Upon growing and increasing, the seed produced in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of one hundred to one." He said, "Whoever has ears to listen should pay attention!"

When they were alone, the people around Jesus, along with the Twelve, asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He said to them, "The secret of God's kingdom has been given to you, but to those who are outside everything comes in parables. This is so that they can look and see but have no insight, and they can hear but not understand. Otherwise, they might turn their lives around and be forgiven.

"Don't you understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The farmer scatters the word. This is the meaning of the seed that fell on the path: When the word is scattered and people hear it, right away Satan comes and steals the word that was planted in them. Here's the meaning of the seed that fell on rocky ground: When people hear the word, they immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. Others are like the

seed scattered among the thorny plants. These are the ones who have heard the word; but the worries of this life, the false appeal of wealth, and the desire for more things break in and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. The seed scattered on good soil are those who hear the word and embrace it. They bear fruit, in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case sixty to one, and in another case one hundred to one."

Jesus said to them, "Does anyone bring in a lamp in order to put it under a basket or a bed? Shouldn't it be placed on a lampstand? Everything hidden will be revealed, and everything secret will come out into the open. Whoever has ears to listen should pay attention!"

He said to them, "Listen carefully! God will evaluate you with the same standard you use to evaluate others. Indeed, you will receive even more. Those who have will receive more, but as for those who don't have, even what they don't have will be taken away from them."

Then Jesus said, "This is what God's kingdom is like. It's as though someone scatters seed on the ground, then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn't know how. The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it's harvest time."

He continued, "What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade."

With many such parables he continued to give them the word, as much as they were able to hear. He spoke to them only in parables, then explained everything to his disciples when he was alone with them.

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