



BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“The lamb, which is roasted, is roasted and dressed up in the form of the cross. For one spit pierces right through from the lower parts up to the head, and another one pierces the lamb across the back, to which are attached the legs of the lamb.” — St. Justin Martyr (c. 160, E)

Dear Saints, Holy Cross Day and the Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary 12 Sept 2021

Both Eastern and Western traditions commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the weekly commemoration of the Crucifixion.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5.24), and mortify ourselves during the forty days of the lenten Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us. And we *need* refreshment and encouragement. Never before has our great country been more upside down. Notwithstanding, as Michael Ashley has said, this is a unique time of opportunity. This means we can be optimistic. Not only can we be optimistic, but in light of the victory of Christ, we can stand confidently in the face of opposition, persecution, and the trampling of freedoms. Come what may, we belong to Christ: He has made us His own. This means that the King will never leave us nor forsake us.

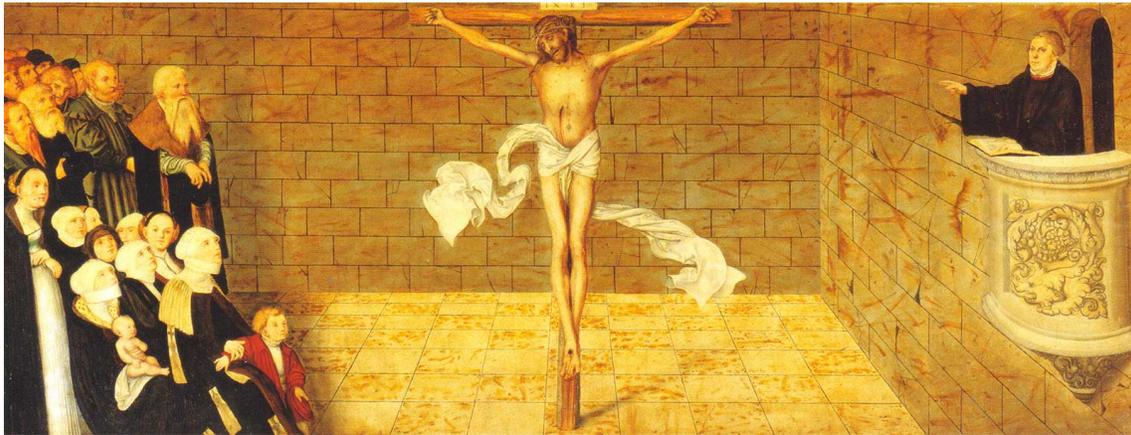
Key to it all is perspective. We are called to look through the lens of the Holy Cross and Empty Tomb. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion — being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is conspicuously placed above the Altar and flanking Ambo. Sacrament and Word — both are imbued with efficacy by the Holy Cross.

The most common icon associated with the Veneration of the Cross is the one reproduced above. In the icon, Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

Below is the the famous sixteenth-century painting by Lucas Cranach set as the bottom panel of the Altarpiece at the Mariankirche in Lutherstad-Wittenberg. The painting is a graphic representation of Martin Luther’s hermeneutics (the understanding of the Bible) and homiletics (the art of preaching).



Note a vested Luther in the ambo with his on an open Bible. Interestingly, Luther is not looking at the Bible. The painting shows a confident preacher, fully in touch with the Bible. His hand is placed on it, suggesting that he is fully grounded in it. Yet Luther was not confined to the Bible. In the painting, he is looking elsewhere, outward, to the objective Christ who is present in the midst of His people. The Crucifix here presents the sacrificed Lamb of God, who shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins. In other words, Cranach has transposed the Altar with the crucified Christ. Luther’s preaching, then, terminates in feasting on the flesh of Jesus, situated at the center of the painting, attracting the full attention of the observer. Christ is to be seen first — that is Luther’s intent and he himself is placed at the margins.

Cranach has forged a nexus between Scripture and Christ. In Lutheran theology and praxis, “sola Scriptura” and “solus Christus” go hand in hand to bring us to the real voice and real presence of Christ. The congregation situated to the left of the image hear the word of truth and gaze upon Christ — the sacrament of God — with faith (sola fide). Luther looks to the viewer so as to solicit the same response: Faith in the Son of God. For in Him there can be nothing but refreshment and encouragement for our souls.

Pastor John

Sept. 12	Fifteenth S. after Trinity	1 Kings 17:8–16	Psalm 146	Gal. 5:25—6:10	Matt. 6:24–34
Sept. 19	Sixteenth S. after Trinity	1 Kings 17:17–24	Psalm 30	Eph. 3:13–21	Luke 7:11–17

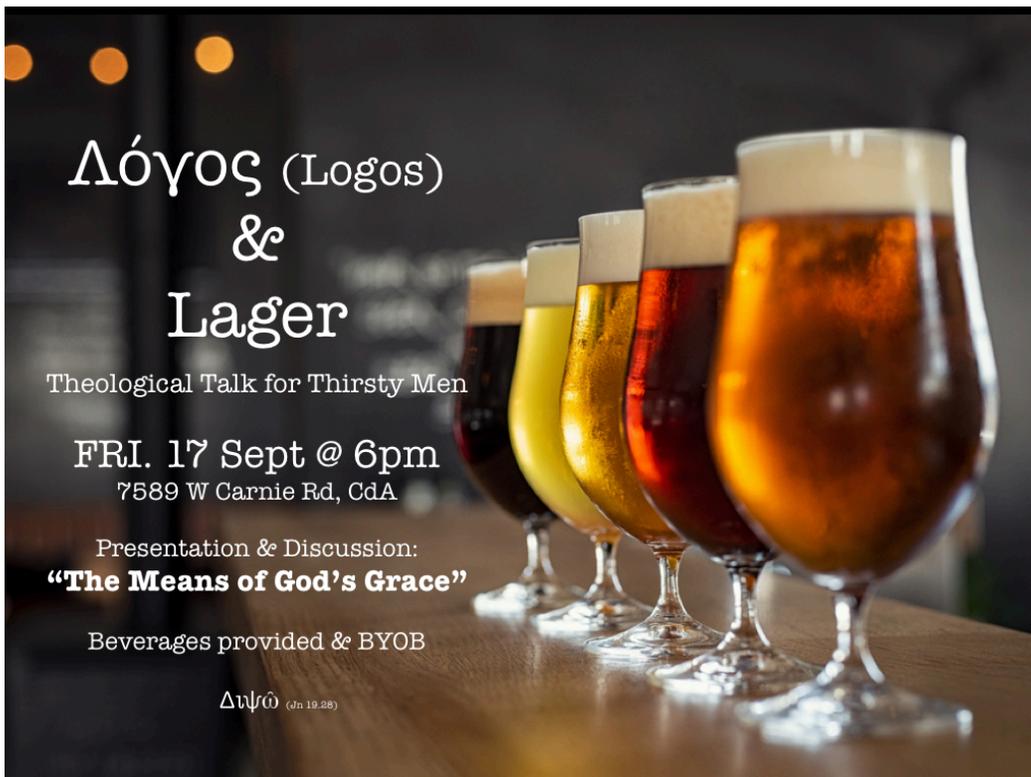
Holy Cross & the Name of the Mother of Our Lord. 12 Sept. Color: White. Divine Service 1. Processional 534. Hymn of the Day 539; Psalm 146 chanted responsively; Eucharistic Hymn, 621; Post-Communion Cantic: Thank the Lord; Recessional 554. Sermon: 1 Cor. 1.18-25, "The Holy Cross."

The Rite of Reception will precede the Sacrament of the Altar. Members of Blessed Sacrament will sign the parish constitution following Mass.

A one-year anniversary of the founding of Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church and celebration of a year of faithfulness and devotion to Holy Communion will occur after Mass at the Bombaro home: 7766 N Westview Drive, Coeur d'Alene. Please bring a dish to share.

Sixteenth S. a. Trinity 19 Sept. Color: Green. Divine Service 1. Processional 912. Hymn of the Day 526; Psalm 30 chanted responsively; Eucharistic Hymn, 540; Post-Communion Cantic: Thank the Lord; Recessional 793. Sermon: St. Luke 7.11-17, "The Unstoppable Force."

- * Note that we are using Setting 1 for Mass. The Verbi and Pater Noster, however, will be chanted. Also, Mass will begin with the thurible.
- * AUGSBURG ACADEMY: The Parable of Lk 15. Lesson 2, "Jesus as Metaphorical Theologian."
- * **Logos & Lager 17 Sept @ 6pm, Pond home. Topic: "The Means of God's Grace"**
- * Please contact Pastor Bombaro if you would like our children catechized for First Holy Communion or join in Confirmation Catechesis.
- * The next Order of St. Vincent event will be scheduled for Saturday 19 September. We are considering a bike ride along the Centennial Trail. More information later this week.



Λόγος (Logos)
&
Lager

Theological Talk for Thirsty Men

FRI. 17 Sept @ 6pm
7589 W Carnie Rd, CdA

Presentation & Discussion:
"The Means of God's Grace"

Beverages provided & BYOB

Διψῶ (Jn 19:28)