



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 11, 2024

CROSS

Cross Lutheran Church

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109

www.crosslutheranchurch.org office@crosslutheranchurch.org worship@crosslutheranchurch.org

651-777-1329

Reverend Scott Simmons, Pastor

Preaching/Presiding:
Pastor Scott Simmons

Organ/Piano:
Kenneth Kusiak

Lay Minister:
2/11 Duane Gudknecht
2/18 Dave Olson

Assisting Minister:
2/11 Katie Erickson
2/18 Sherry Batterman

Cantor:
2/11 Katie Erickson

Ushers:
2/11 Dan Erickson and
Katie Erickson
2/18 Clara Volkers and
Carolyn Border

Acolyte:
2/11 Amelia Brynildson
2/18 Henry Mizinski

Livestream Producer:
Katie Tomek

Altar Guild:
February: Diana Border
and Bonnie Dischinger

Coffee:
2/11

*If you are interested in
serving coffee following
worship, please sign-up
on the bulletin board
between the narthex
and the kitchen.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Song without Words, Op. 102, No. 6 Felix Mendelssohn

***GATHERING SONG** Oh, Lord Shall How I Meet You ELW241



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light, word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

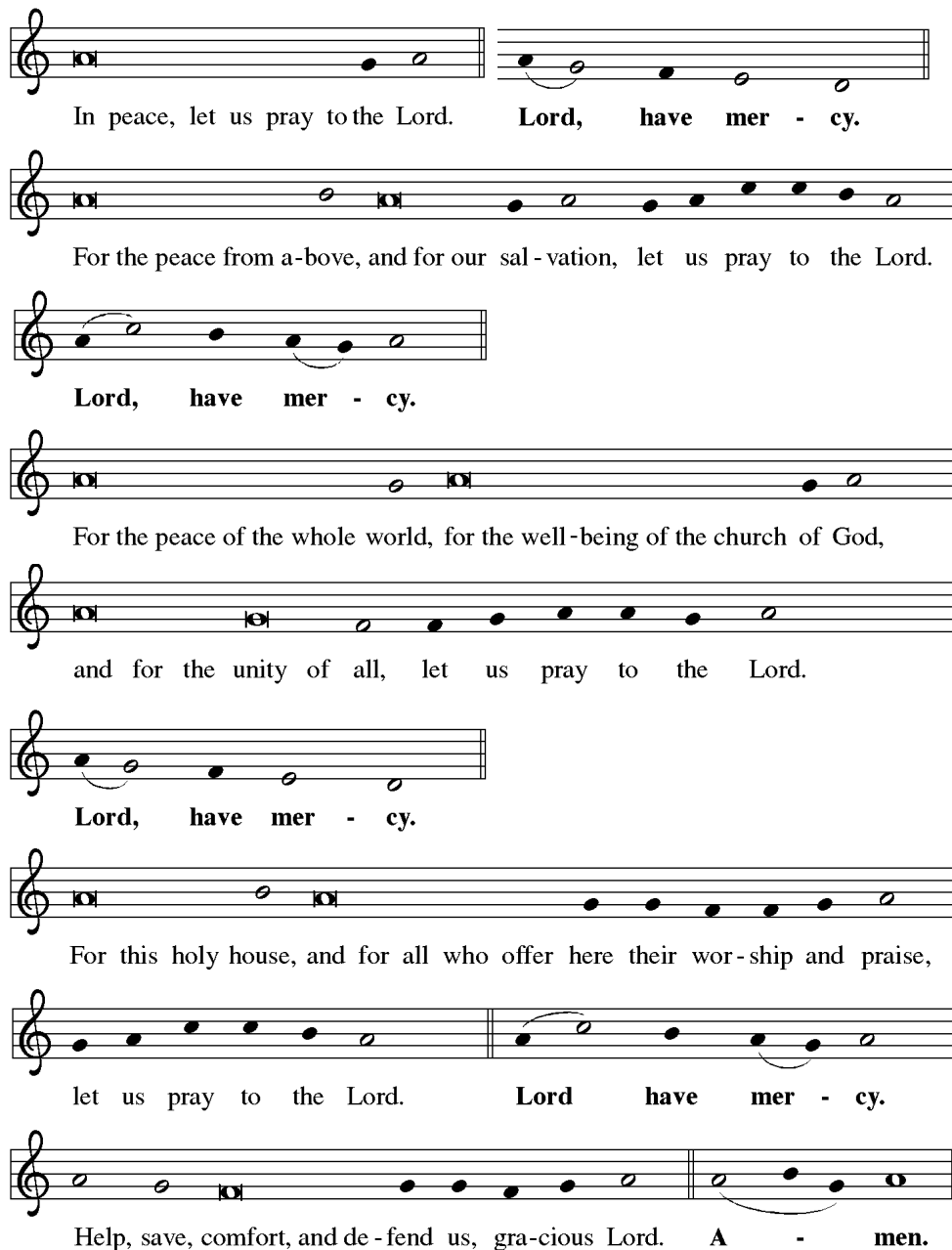
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all. **Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
 God has spoken:
 The time of grace is now.
 In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
 By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
 your sins are forgiven.
 You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

*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.**

*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday Worship, sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the narthex, or contact the office.

The Liturgy of Holy Communion, which we celebrate every Sunday, is the principal form of Lutheran worship. Here, the Holy Spirit gathers us around the means of grace— the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.

The basic pattern of this liturgy—gathering, word, meal, sending—is a structure that allows for freedom and flexibility in the ways our worship may be shaped locally, while focusing on what the church holds in common. The whole people of God are joined by the same gifts of grace, for the sake of the same mission of the gospel, into the life of the one triune God.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE — THIS IS THE FEAST



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Jesus, you sent many into the world to proclaim your kingdom on earth.
Send us, equip us, and walk with us so that everyone can learn of your
abundant love. Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you always.
And also with you.

Please share a covid-friendly sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

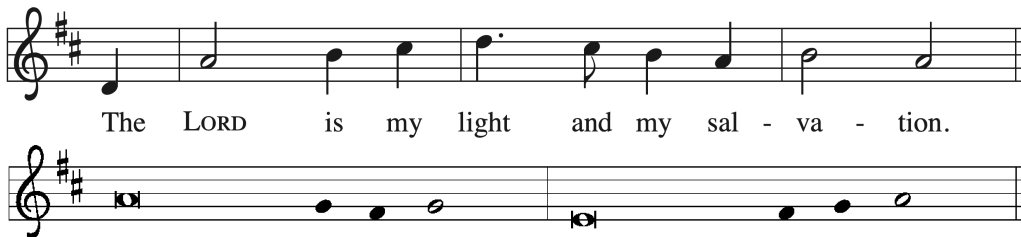
FIRST LESSON

Mark 8:27-30

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27:1-4



The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then I shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers close in against me to de- | your my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.
Though an army encamp against me, my heart I will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will I not be shaken.
One thing I ask of the Lord; one I thing I seek;
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 seek God I in the temple. R

SECOND LESSON

Mark 8:31-9:1

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We gather around the **WORD** in reading, preaching, and song, as we enter into the steadfast love of God as proclaimed through Holy Scripture.*

*For Lutherans, the **Gospel of Christ**—the Good News of what God has done in Jesus—is at the heart of our public witness and proclamation.*

This Good News is received through the Gospel accounts of the apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, yes, but also in the writings of Paul, John, and Peter; in the witnesses of the Old Testament prophets; the memories of the people of Israel; and through the poetry and prose of Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs and others. The Gospel is truly the Good News of Christ proclaimed from Genesis to Revelation, whenever and however it points to God’s loving, redeeming, and creative power in, with, and through Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. Good News indeed.

PREACHING SCRIPTURES

As we continue through
this year of Mark, here
are the main biblical
texts for the coming
weeks:

Feb. 11. Transfiguration

Mark 8:27 – 9:8

Psalms 27:1-4

Feb. 14. Passion Prediction

Mark 9:30-37

Psalms 32:1-5

Feb. 18. First Last and Last First

Mark 10:17-31

Psalms 19:7-10

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-8

The Gospel according to Mark... Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

*SONG OF THE DAY

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW533



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thicken, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

MEAL

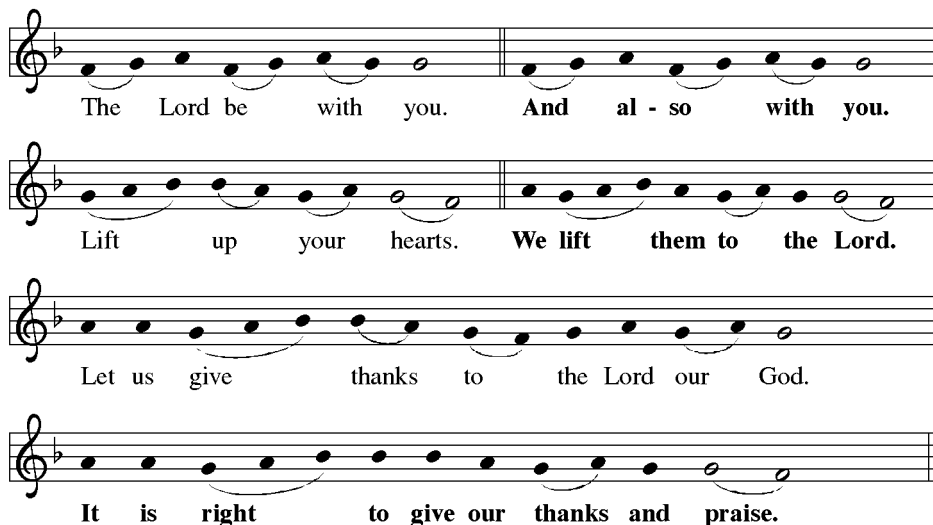
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY Renew Me, O Eternal Light [HERR JESU CHRIST, MEIN'S]
Johann Gottfried Walther

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and
cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we
seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for:
Alicia, Greg, Richard,
Marya, Marilee, LuAnn,
Sherry, Mary, Ruthann,
Dawn, Sharon, BettyLu,
David, Ray and Clara,
Brady, Andrew, Sheree,
Kennedee, Kenny, Judy,
Marv, Robin, Hailey,
Dottie, and Jerrod.

We also pray for the
Stack family.

If you have a name
to add or remove from
this prayer list, please
contact Pastor Scott
or Katie Tomek, Admin.
Assistant.

OFFERING

We bring our offerings
to God with grateful
hearts, in confidence
they will be used to
support the work of the
church both here and
throughout the world.

In ELCA liturgy, the
Offering is set within the
context of the Meal, for
it is here that we set the
table with the fruits of
our hands— financial
offerings, yes, but also
bread and wine which
are products of human
effort and gifts of our
gracious God. It is from
this table of blessing
that God feeds us with
the presence of Christ.

*In **Holy Communion**, we receive the gift of Christ's presence in bread and wine (the body and blood of Jesus) through the holy promise that this gift is "for you." All who desire to receive Christ's presence in, with, and through the wine and the bread are invited to this table.*

***We remember** God's faithfulness to God's people and God's purposes.*

All are invited to proclaim the words of institution along with the presiding pastor.

*PREFACE

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

*PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Gracious God, In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who through his death, resurrection, and ascension opened his arms to all, inviting us to share the table of his love and proclaim to all the sacred story:

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*PRAYER OF THANKFULNESS

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

p. 134

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 forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion songs: I Love to Tell the Story, 661; One Bread, One Body, 496

*COMMUNION BLESSING

*COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always. Amen.

Today we practice continuous communion using a pouring chalice as a common cup. Ushers will invite you to proceed up the aisle towards the pastor and the bread. Please offer your cupped hands to receive the bread.

Proceed to the cupbearer, picking up an empty cup from the tray. Hold out your cup for the lay minister to fill from the common pouring chalice.

Please recycle your cup in the basket provided and return via the side aisle.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please tell the pastor when you approach to receive the bread. Pre-filled grape juice cups are available. Please ask your server.

Children who are not yet communing and others wishing not to commune may approach the pastor for a blessing. Please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

If you are not comfortable with coming forward for communion due to health concerns, individual communion sets are available at the sanctuary entrance. Please indicate to the usher if you would like one.

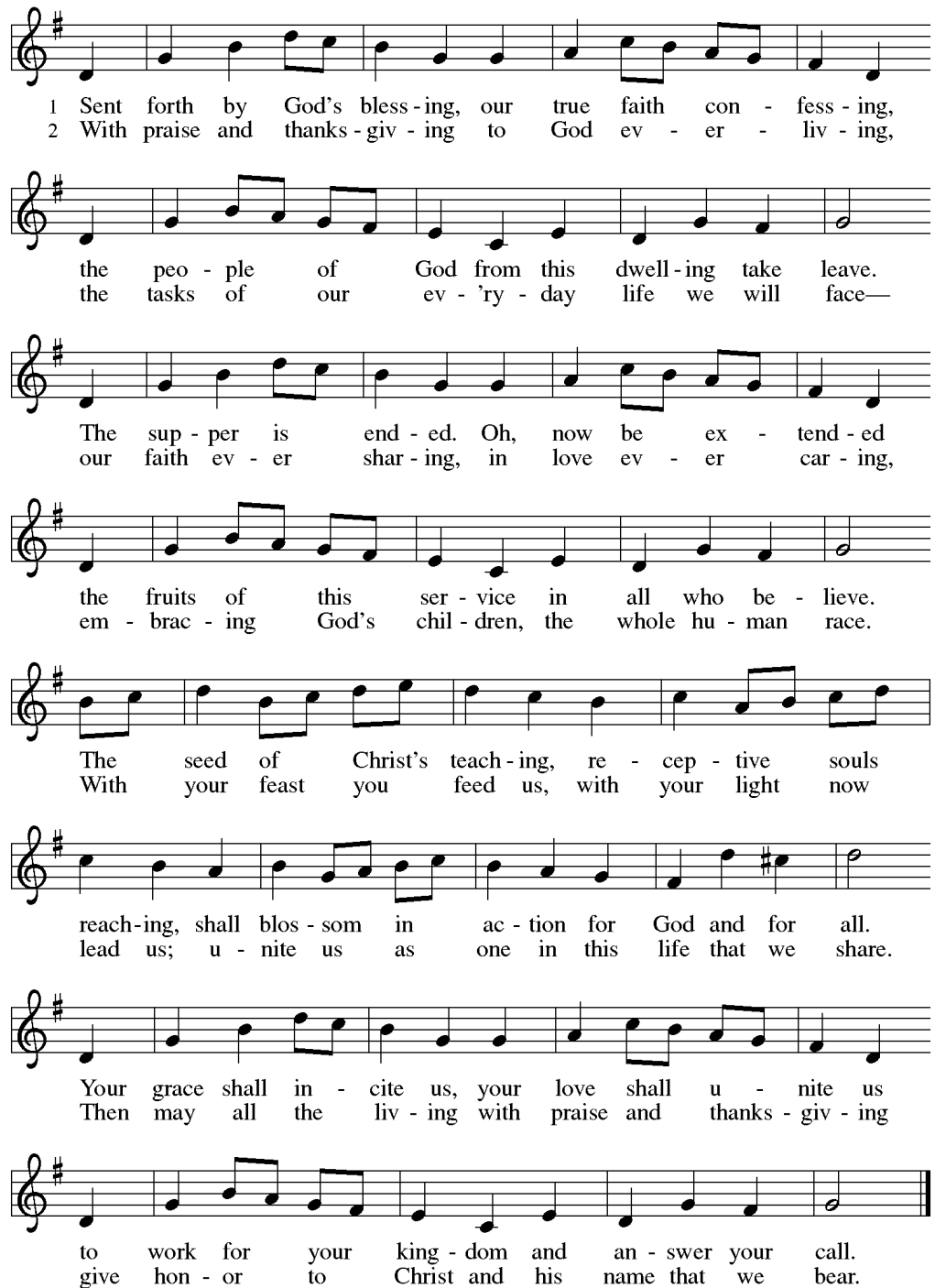
ANOINTING After
communing, you may
receive prayer and
anointing with oil from
the assisting minister
stationed in the narthex.

The Holy Spirit **SENDS**
us, restored and
refreshed in the Word
and the Meal, to share
the Good News.

***SENDING SONG**

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

ELW547



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.

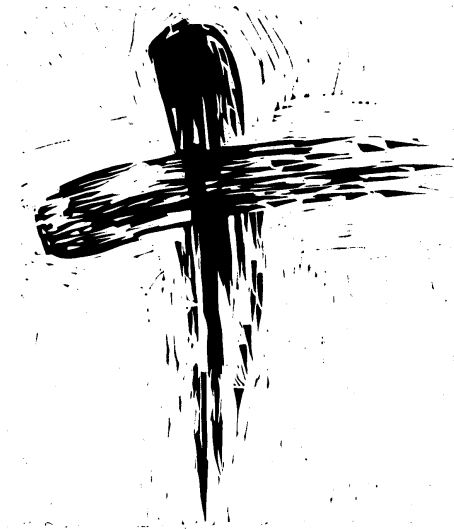
***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ. **Thanks Be To God.**

POSTLUDE

Recessional in F

Gregory P. Cohn



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Cross will have soup suppers starting this Wednesday Feb. 14th at 5 pm, going every Wednesday of Lent until March 20th. The schedule is as follows:

- Soup Supper: 5:00pm
- Cleanup: 5:45pm
- Lenten Evening prayer: 6:00pm, with imposition of ashes, in the style of Holden prayer.

Volunteers are needed to sign up to make soups and desserts- two soups and two desserts per Wednesday. Contact Sherry Batterman to sign up.

TODAY AT CROSS

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP in the community room following worship.

ADULT EDUCATION is paused this week, to resume next Sunday, Feb. 18th.

NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR! A hearty Cross Lutheran welcome to Kenneth Kusiak, who is now officially our new worship director! He began officially this week, and we look forward to all he brings to enhance worship and choir. If you see him, bid him welcome!

ASH WEDNESDAY is this Wednesday, Feb. 14th and kicks off the season of Lent. We will begin with a soup supper at 5pm and have Lenten evening prayer to follow at 6pm.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Cross Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, February 15th at 7pm in preparation for Lent and Easter season ministry. All experiences and backgrounds are welcome. Choir will sing every other Sunday, beginning on February 25th, along with special services during Holy Week and Easter. Participation is encouraged even if you can't be at every service! If you have questions, please contact Ken at worship@crosslutheranchurch.org.

JOHN GLENN LAUNCHING PAD

The donation item for February is feminine hygiene products. School supplies, especially chisel type Expo Markers, continue to be needed.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Thursdays at 10:30 am. All are welcome to join! It's always a lively time.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY If you are interested in a weekly evening Bible study with Pastor Scott, please indicate your interest on the signup sheet located in the narthex. Once we know how many folks are interested, we will reach out and find a day and time that works best for all.

MERRICK MARCH FOOD DRIVE is on at Cross! Their overall goal is to raise \$30,000, and every donation makes an impact – for example, each \$100 raised provides approximately 300 meals. Cross will assist with this by collecting monetary and food donations beginning in early March. Plan to bring in all donations before Easter. All checks should be made payable to Cross Lutheran Church. Check out www.merrickcs.org for a list of what foodstuffs are most needed.

ELCA TOOLKIT AND CONFERENCE ASSEMBLIES is on February 24 from 8:30am - 2:00pm, First Lutheran Church in Forest Lake. Church. Council reps, committee members, rostered ministers, church staff, and all others involved with ministry in our congregation are invited to join. This event features nine workshops focusing on many areas of interest to those involved in congregational life. The registration fee for Tool Kit is \$20 per person, which includes materials and lunch. There is no charge for those attending only a conference assembly. Advance registration closes on Feb. 20. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Scott.

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www.crosslutheranchurch.org office@crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329

Reverend Scott Simmons, pastor pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org 612-859-1134

Katie Tomek, administrative assistant office@crosslutheranchurch.org

Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org

Kenneth Kusiak, worship director worship@crosslutheranchurch.org

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday Feb. 11

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Sunday School

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

11:00am-12:00pm

Adult Ed

1:00 – 5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, Feb. 12

Office Closed

Tuesday, Feb. 13

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, Feb. 14

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

5:00pm

Soup Supper

6:00pm

Lenten Evening Prayer

7:00 – 9:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, Feb. 15

8:00am – 5:00pm

Katie Tomek Office

10:30am

Bible Study in Comm Rm

11:30am-2:30pm

Pastor Scott office

3:00 – 4:00pm

Worship @ The Shores

7:00pm

Choir Practice

Friday, Feb. 16

1:00-4:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, Feb. 17

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, Feb. 18

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Sunday School

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

11:00am-12:00pm

Adult Ed

1:00 – 5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim