

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • SEPT 1, 2024



Cross Lutheran Church 1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109 www.crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329 *Reverend Scott Simmons, Pastor* office@crosslutheranchurch.org Indicates congregation should stand as able.

Preaching/Presiding: Rev. Scott Simmons

Organ/Piano: Kaia Sand

Lay Minister: 9/1 Patty VanderWaal 9/8 Phyllis Moser

Assisting Minister: 9/1 Jamie Gudknecht 9/8 Dave Olson

Cantor: 9/1 Katie Erickson 9/8 Kids

Ushers:

9/1 Clara Volkers and Carolyn Border 9/8 Matt Wickoren and Sheree Keiffer

Acolyte:

9/1 Kirby Doughty Crist 9/8 Amelia Brynildson

Livestream Producer: Katie Tomek

Altar Guild:

September: Sylvia Graham and Janice Neenan

Coffee:

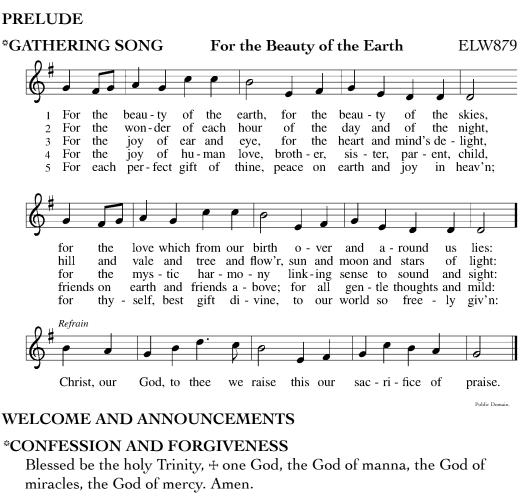
9/1 Sherry Batterman 9/8 Dottie Bingman and Diana Swanson

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

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.

GATHERING

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



Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

God, our provider, help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen. Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, + the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. 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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

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.

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.

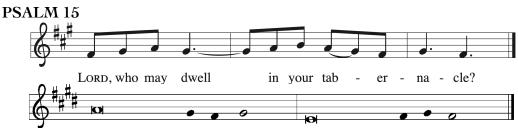
FIRST LESSON Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right, who speak the truth | from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends; they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected,

but they honor those who | fear the Lord.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word. They do not give their money in hope of gain,

nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. R

SECOND READING James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



*GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 The Gospel according to Mark... Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

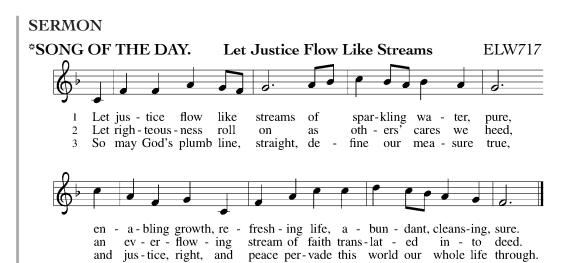
You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

PREACHING SCRIPTURES Here are the main biblical texts for the coming weeks:

September 1.

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 September 8. Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8 Luke 11:4 September 15. Genesis 15:1-6 Luke 3:8



*APOSTLES CREED

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 to the dead. 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 OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you. *Please share a covid-friendly sign of peace with those around you.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

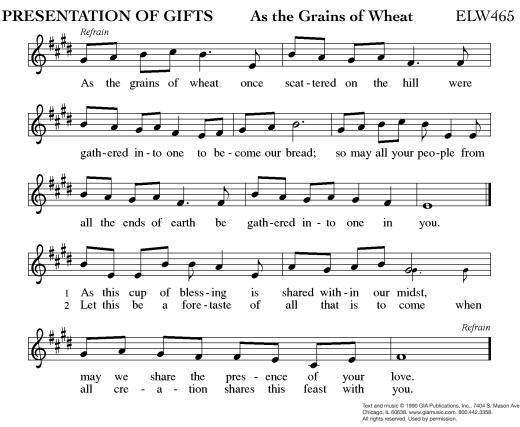
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for: Andrew, Marya, Linnea, Gabby and her unborn baby, Carolyn, Margo, Roman Joseph, Sherry, Ray and Clara, Dawn, Brady, Richard, Judy, Sheree, Marv, Dottie, BettyLu, Greg, Kennedee, Robin, Hailey, Jerrod, Lonna, Heather, Joe and Family, Kelly, Dawn L., Michael, Sara and Mary N.

We pray for Kelly and John, missionaries in Papua, New Guinea.

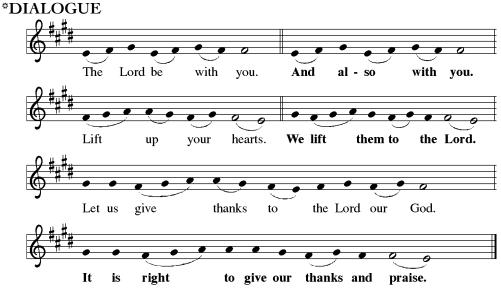
We offer continued prayers for the families of Allen Stack, Bud Nasby, Ellie Scot-Meyer, Dave Davidson, and Deb Grothe (Patty's sister).

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



OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*PREFACE

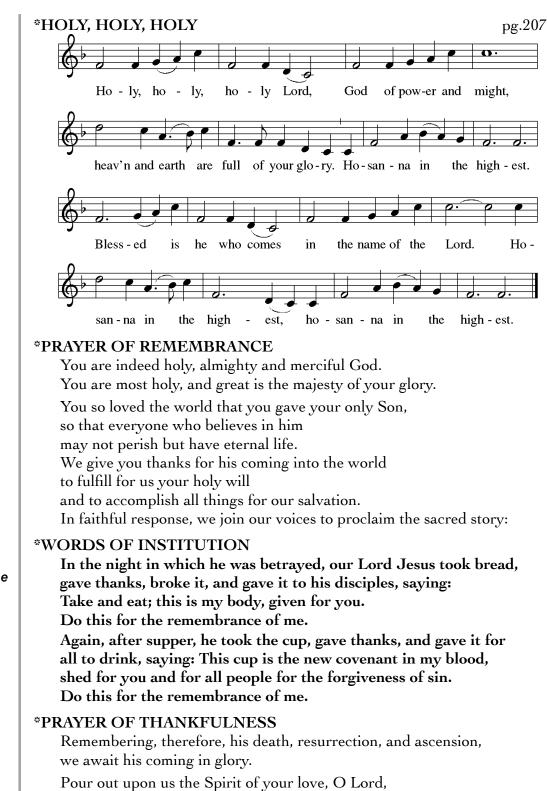
OFFERING

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.



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.**

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

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

pg. 208



Communion songs: ELW 770 - Give Me Jesus, ELW 342 - There in God's Garden

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

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. Please offer cupped hands to receive the bread. Proceed to the cupbearer. select an empty cup and hold it for the lay minister to fill. 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 in the silver tray.

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

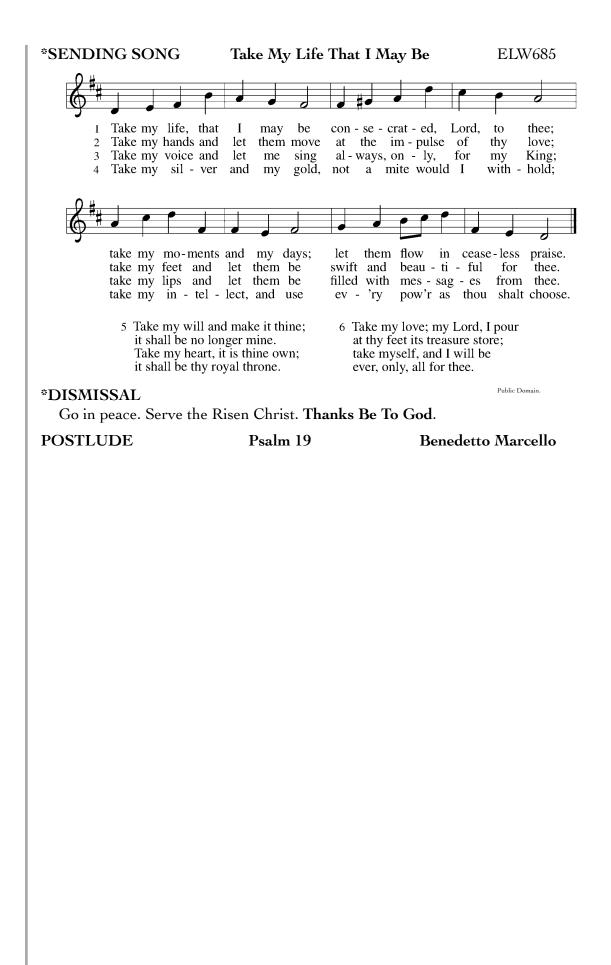
Individual sealed communion sets are also available at the sanctuary entrance.

ANOINTING After

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

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

pg.154



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Why should I be concerned about Christian Nationalism?

In the present fractured political climate, there has been a rise in visibility and presence of a troubling religious-political movement: Christian Nationalism According to the ELCA, "Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over non-religion. Religious instruction is best left to houses of worship, other religious institutions and families.

Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.

We must stand up to and speak out against Christian Nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation—including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship—against religious communities at home and abroad."

Join us **Sunday, Sept. 8 and 15 at 11:00 am** as we kick off our 2024-25 adult education series with a look at this crucial topic. Discussion will be led by Pastor Mike Peterson on Sept. 8 and Pastor Scott on Sept. 15.



Lessons from the 2024 Youth Gathering

One of the joys of the 2024 youth gathering that Pastor Scott and our confirmation youth attended in July was the depth of the teaching. And although it was directed mostly for youth, the wisdom shared is good for people of all ages.

Join Pastor Scott for adult ed beginning **Sunday**, **Sept. 22 at 11:00 am** for a five week series on **Created to Be: Lessons from the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.** We'll share videos of some of the main speakers at the youth gathering and consider how questions asked the youth might apply to our own adult lives and our ministry together at Cross. This series will cover five specific areas:

Created to Be **Brave** Created to Be **Authentic** Created to Be **Free**



Mark Your Calendars: Confirmation Sunday, October 27

Please plan on joining us for worship as Amelia, Henry, and Kirby publicly affirm their baptismal faith and join the adult membership of Cross Lutheran Church.

TODAY AT CROSS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Join us after worship in the community room for coffee and fellowship.

ADULT EDUCATION starts up again next Sunday, September 8th, with special guest Pastor Mike Peterson (Lakeview Lutheran), who will be sharing a presentation on Christian Nationalism, which Pastor Scott will continue on September 15th. September 22 we will begin a 5-week series called "Created to Be" based on teachings from the ELCA Youth Gathering.

CHANCEL CHOIR. Fall choral rehearsals will commence on Thursday, September 12th from 6-7pm. Anyone is welcome to join, regardless of experience. If you have any questions, contact Ken at worship@crosslutheranchurch.org.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY will meet again Thursday mornings at 10:30 am beginning this Thursday, September 5.

SING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE Mark your calendars for every other Wednesday night at 5:30pm starting September 11th for sing around the campfire. Bring a folding chair, a drink and snack to share if you can, and join us on the east lawn. Feel free to bring an instrument if you play. Lyrics and chords will be provided.

JOHN GLENN SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

School Supplies are starting to appear in stores. Below is the John Glenn wish list: Spiral Notebooks and Plastic two-pocket folders Colored Pencils and Regular Pencils, Glue Sticks Expo Markers and Colored Markers and Highlighters AAA Batteries, Kleenex, Backpacks Thanks so much for your continued support!

JOHN GLENN JET LAUNCHING PAD items for the coming school year: September: Deodorant-Regular size and Travel size October: Tee Shirts (Plain Colors), Sizes: Kids L, XL - Adults XXL November - Sweatpants (All sizes) December - ChristmasGifts/Gift Cards January - Socks February - Feminine Hygiene Products March - Deodorant April - Bar Soap May - Feminine Hygiene Products Ongoing: Kleenex, Black Expo Markers, Coats

Cross Lutheran Church, 1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota, 55109 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 Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, September 1 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 1:00 - 5:00 pmPromesa De Dios 5:00 - 9:00 pmEbenezer Elim Monday, September 2 Office Closed Tuesday, September 3 1:00-5:30pm Pastor Scott office by appt Wednesday, September 4 1:00-6:00pm Pastor Scott office by appt 7:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia Thursday, September 5 8:00am-5:00pm Katie Tomek office 10:30-11:30am Bible Study in Comm Rm 11:30am-2:30pm Pastor Scott office by appt 3:00-4:00pm Worship at the Shores Friday, September 6 1:00-4:00pm Pastor Scott office by apt 7:00pm - 10:00pm Ebenezer Elim Saturday, September 7 9:00am - 1:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia 1:30pm - 4:30pm Cross Organ Practice 5:00 - 7:00 pmAdventista Septimo Dia Sunday, September 8 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 11:00am-12:00pm Adult Ed 1:00-5:00pm Promesa De Dios 5:00 - 9:00pm Ebenezer Elim