



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY • FEBRUARY 2, 2025

**CROSS**

Cross Lutheran Church

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109

[www.crosslutheranchurch.org](http://www.crosslutheranchurch.org) [office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org) 651-777-1329

*Reverend Scott Simmons, Pastor*

\*Indicates  
congregation to stand  
as comfortable.

**Preaching/Presiding:**  
Rev. Scott Simmons

**Director of Music:**  
Kenneth Kusiak

**Lay Minister:**  
2/2 Jamie Gudknecht  
2/9 Dave Olson

**Assisting Minister:**  
2/2 Janice Neenan  
2/9 Jamie Gudknecht

**Psalm:**  
2/2 Duane Gudknecht  
2/9 Peter Brown

**Ushers:**  
2/2 Clara Volkers and  
Carolyn Border  
2/9 Sharon Crist

**Livestream Producer:**  
Nick Gudknecht

**Altar Guild:**  
February Diana Border  
and Bonnie Dischinger

**Coffee:**  
2/2 No Volunteers

**January Counters:**  
Sherry Batterman and  
Phyllis Moser

If you are interested in  
serving coffee following  
worship, please sign-up  
on the bulletin board

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.

## GATHER

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

### PRELUDE

Hymne

Vangelis, arr. Dan Coates

### \*PROCESSIONAL

The Church of Christ in Every Age

ELW729



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act  
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.  
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;  
we resist your call to oppose injustice;  
we give in to scarcity and fear;  
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults  
and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine."

In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **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**

pg. 98

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

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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 worship and praise,

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

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

A - men, a - men.

**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.

## THIS IS THE FEAST

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

*Refrain*  
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

*Refrain*  
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the Sabbath, Your followers were told not to work on the Sabbath, and yet they boldly plucked grain to show that you are Lord of all. The world tells us not to rest on the Sabbath. Show us how to rest boldly, rejecting conventions that go against your will, and instead praying and resting as you did up on the mountain, for the glory of your work and work, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## WORD

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

### FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 21:1-6

David came to Nob to the priest Ahimelech. Ahimelech came trembling to meet David and said to him, "Why are you alone and no one with you?" David said to the priest Ahimelech, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'No one must know anything of the matter about which I send you and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. Now then, what have you at hand? Give me five loaves of bread or whatever is here." The priest answered David, "I have no ordinary bread at hand, only holy bread—provided that the young men have kept themselves from women." David answered the priest, "Indeed, women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition; the vessels of the young men are holy even when it is a common journey; how much more today will their vessels be holy?" So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the LORD, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

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

### PSALM 92

*Congregation sings bold verses*



The righ-teous shall flour-ish like a palm tree.



It is a good thing to give thanks | to the Lord,  
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

**to herald your love | in the morning  
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,  
and to the melody | of the harp.

**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O Lord;  
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands. R**

The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

**Those who are planted in the house | of the Lord  
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

they shall still bear fruit | in old age;  
they shall be | green and succulent;  
**that they may show how up- | right the Lord is,  
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice. R**

### SECOND LESSON

Acts 4:23-31

After they were released, they went to their own people and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them, it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:

'Why did the gentiles rage  
and the peoples imagine vain things?

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

The kings of the earth took their stand,  
and the rulers have gathered together  
against the Lord and against his Messiah.'

"For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant! Jesus. When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

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

*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.*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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**\*GOSPEL**

**Luke 6:1-16**

The Gospel according to Luke **Glory to you, O Lord.**

One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." He got up and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

**Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.**

The Gospel of Our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

**\*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**

God of Grace, Hear Our Prayer.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

*Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*This week we pray for:  
Marya, Sylvia, Linnea,  
Marlee, Gabby and  
baby Creed, Margo,  
Roman Joseph, Ray  
and Clara, Dawn, Brady,  
Richard, Judy, Sheree,  
Marv, Dottie, BettyLu,  
Robin, Lonna, Heather,  
Kelly, Dawn L., Steve,  
and Joetta and family.*

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

*We offer continued  
prayers for the families  
of Norm Sessing and  
Matt Wickoren.*

*If you have a name  
to add or remove from  
this prayer list, please  
contact Jamie  
Gudknecht or Pastor  
Scott.*

## OFFERING

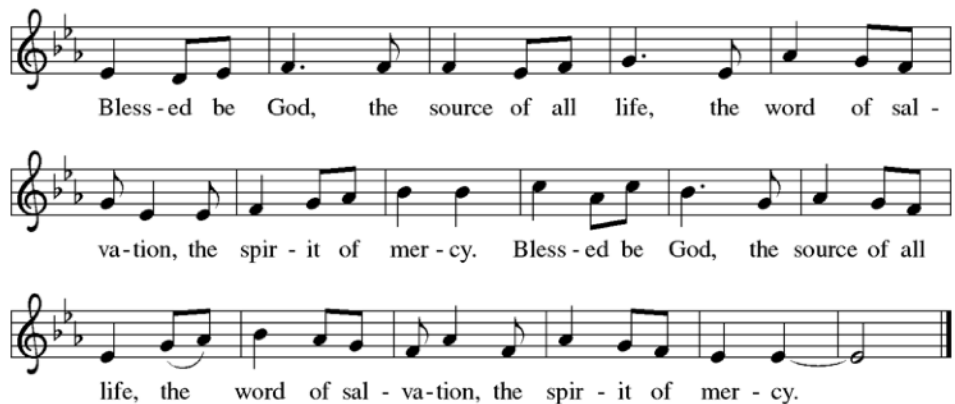
We bring our offerings to God with grateful hearts, in confidence they will be used to support the work of the church both here and throughout the world.

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

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERTORY** Romanze; Op. 57, No. 4 Niels Wilhelm Gade  
**PRESENTATION:** Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life ELW209



Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -  
va-tion, the spir - it of mer - cy. Bless-ed be God, the source of all  
life, the word of sal - va-tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

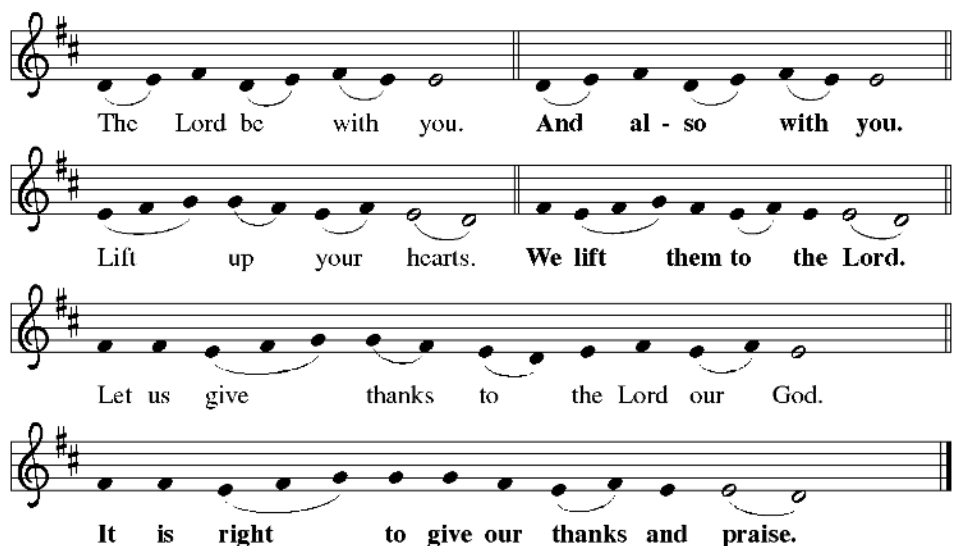
## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### \*DIALOGUE

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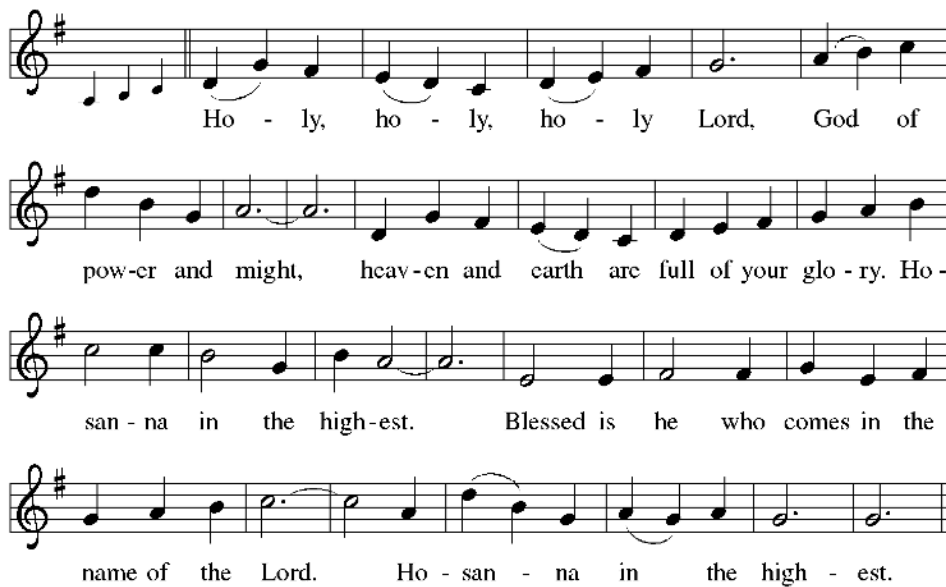
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### \*PREFACE



**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

pg. 108



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. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh, in whose name we proclaim 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**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**  
With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**  
Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**  
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*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.*

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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom 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 forever. Amen.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**LAMB OF GOD**

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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 hymns:* ELW638 — *Blessed Assurance*  
 ELW660 — *Lift High The Cross*

**DISTRIBUTION**

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
 In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

**SENDING**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God  
 † bless you with joy,  
 anoint you with compassion,  
 and send you in love. Amen.



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

\*DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks Be To God.

POSTLUDE

Minuet

Georg Philipp Telemann

## TODAY AT CROSS

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

**ADULT EDUCATION – Gospel and Governance.** Over the past few weeks, the new presidential administration has initiated a large number of executive orders and actions which may negatively effect the lives of immigrants, students, children, the poor, the sick and many more. What does God call us to do in situations like this? Join us over the next few weeks to look at how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has and is responding, how our ecumenical partners are doing so, and to consider how we might be called to respond as a community and people of faith.

**MATH CARNIVAL** Thursday, February 6th, 5:30-8:00pm

**CROSS CHOIR** rehearsals are held Thursdays from 6-7:15pm. **There will not be rehearsal on Thursday, February 6th.** Anyone is welcome to join, regardless of experience.

If you have any questions, contact Ken at [worship@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:worship@crosslutheranchurch.org).

**THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY** meets Thursday mornings at 10:30 am in the community room. All are welcome! It is always a lively time.

**JOHN GLENN JET LAUNCHING PAD** items for the coming school year:

February - Feminine Hygiene Products

March - Deodorant

April - Bar Soap

May - Feminine Hygiene Products

Ongoing: Kleenex, Black Expo Markers, Coats

**WE NEED BAGS** - Our next Community Market is February 19th and we have depleted our stash of bags. Please save your bags - brown and plastic. Bags can be placed in grocery cart in Narthex or brought with you on the 19th. Thank you!

**MATH CARNIVAL**  
**Thursday, February 6**  
**5:30 - 8:00 pm**

**Shifts:      5:30 - 6:45**  
**6:45 - 8:00**

**Sign Up with Katie in the Narthex**

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[www.crosslutheranchurch.org](http://www.crosslutheranchurch.org) [office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org) 651-777-1329  
Reverend Scott Simmons, pastor [pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org) 612-859-1134  
Jamie Gudknecht, office manager [office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
Kenneth Kusiak, director of music [worship@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:worship@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
Carol Hastings, financial secretary [carol@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:carol@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## THIS WEEK AT CROSS

**Sunday, February 2**

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

11:00am

Adult Education

1:00 – 5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

**Monday, February 3**

Office Closed

**Tuesday, February 4**

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

**Wednesday, February 5**

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

**Thursday, February 6**

10:30-11:30am

Bible Study/Comm. Rm

11:30-2:30pm

Pastor Scott Office by apt

3:00-4:00pm

Worship at the Shores

5:30-8:00pm

Math Carnival - JG

**Friday, February 7**

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

**Saturday, February 8**

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

**Sunday, February 9**

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee and fellowship

11:00am

Adult Education

1:00-5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim