

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY • MARCH 2, 2025

CR#SS

Cross Lutheran Church

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109 www.crosslutheranchurch.org 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

Organist: 3/2 Kenneth Kusiak

Lay Minister:

3/2 Sherry Batterman 3/9 Dave Olson

Assisting Minister: 3/2 Paul Schafer 3/9 Janice Neenan

Psalm: 3/2 Katie Erickson 3/9 Duane Gudknecht

Ushers: 3/2 Clara Volkers and Carolyn Border 3/9 Sharon Crist

Acolyte: Nic Villodres

Livestream Producer: Nick Gudknecht

Altar Guild: March Linda Duncan

and Lisa LeMay

Coffee: 3/9 Dottie Bingman and Mary Vatne

March Counters: Linda Duncan and Kay Olson

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

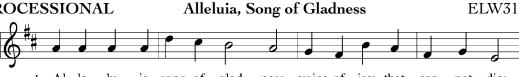
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Renew Me, O Eternal Light

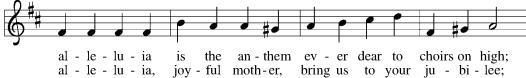
*PROCESSIONAL

Johann Gottfried Walther

ELW318



- glad ness, voice of joy that can not Al-le - lu - ia, song of 2 Al-le-lu-ia you are sound-ing, true Je-ru-sa-lem and free;
- 3 Al-le lu ia can-not al - ways be our song while here be - low; 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless-ed



al - le - lu - ia our trans-gres-sions make us for a while for - go; keep glad Eas - ter at the last to with the faith-ful saints on high;



the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly. here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters ex - iles still are we. mourn-ing for the sol-emn time is com-ing when our tears for sin shall flow. there to you for - ev - er sing-ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

*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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Dazzling Lord, In blinding light you showed your disciples a hint of your power and purpose. Reveal yourself to us today. Show us what you desire of us and how to broadcast your love to the world, for the sake of the one who keeps company with the prophets Moses and Elijah, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM Christ, Upon the Mountain Stands Robert Lehman

CROSS CHOIR

WORD

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

Today is the fifth Sunday of the month, so we are replacing the standard liturgical music (Kyrie, Alleluia, Holy Holy Holy, etc.) with hymns.

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.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out, and when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with him.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



We feast up - on the a-bun-dance of your house, O LORD.



Your love, O Lord, reaches | to the heavens, and your faithfulness | to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like | the great deep;

you save humankind and ani- | mals, O Lord. R

How priceless is your | love, O God!

All people take refuge under the shadow | of your wings.

They feast upon the abundance | of your house; you give them drink from the river of | your delights.

For with you is the | well of life,

and in your light | we see light.

Continue your lovingkindness to I those who know you, and your favor to those who are I true of heart. R

SECOND LESSON Luke 9:28-34

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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re - deemed us by his blood."

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, ves, 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

Luke 9:43b-45

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

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands." But they did not understand this saying; its meaning remained concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

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

SERMON



*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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY Morning Prayer Peter I. Tchaikovsky **PRESENTATION** Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life **ELW209** Bless-ed be God, source of all life, of sal the word Bless - ed be God, va-tion, the spir - it of mer - cy. the source of all life, the word of sal - va-tion, the spir - it of

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for: Marya, Sylvia, baby Hayden, Chris and Nicole, Henry, Linnea, Marlee, Gabby and baby Creed, Roman Joseph, Ray and Clara, Dawn, Brady, Richard, Judy, Sheree, Marv, Dottie, BettyLu, Robin, Lonna, Heather, Kelly, Steve and Joetta and family, Mike, Rick, and Pastor Brian.

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

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

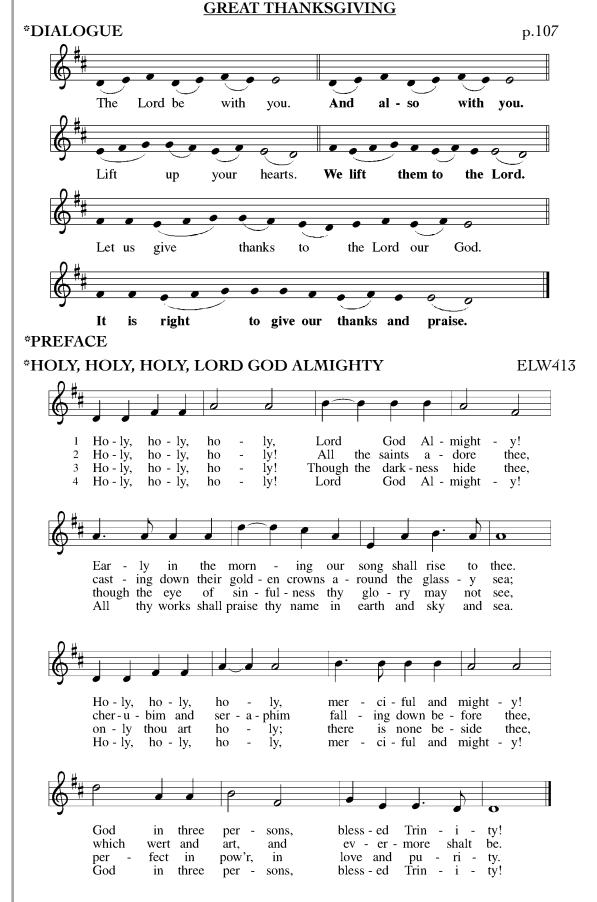
If you have a name to add or remove from this prayer list, please contact Jamie Gudknecht or Pastor Scott.

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

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.



*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.

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 ever. Amen.

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.

We give thanks and offer praise for the gifts of new life and redemption in the body and blood of Christ — which we receive in, with, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

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.

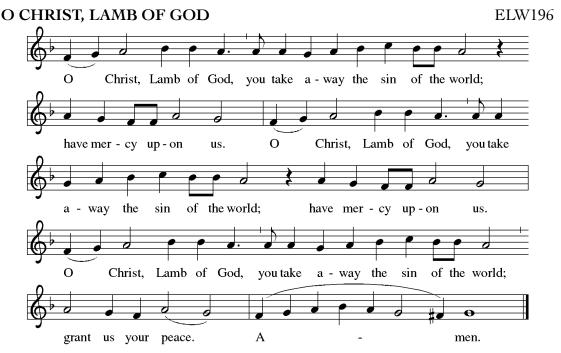
Children who are not yet communing and others wishing not to commune may receive a blessing from the pastor. Please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION



Communion bymns: ELW 483 - Here is Bread ELW 629 - Abide with Me

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.



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

Johann Erasmus Kindermann

POSTLUDE Maestoso

TODAY AT CROSS

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

ADULT EDUCATION – Gospel and Governance continues today with a time of discerning prayer as we listen to the Spirit speak to us about our concerns, our hopes, and our call to love and justice in this world.

ASH WEDNESDAY - Wednesday, March 5th, 6:00pm

CROSS CHOIR - There will be no choir rehearsal on Thursday, March 6th.

Practice is on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00pm. Anyone is welcome to join, regardless of experience. Questions? Contact Ken at 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 March 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!

SOUP SUPPERS begin Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Supper will be served from 5:00-5:45 pm with Worship beginning at 6:00 pm. There is a Soup Sign-up on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Cross Lutheran Church, 1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota, 55109
www.crosslutheranchurch.org office@crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329
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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, March 2

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

11:00am

Adult Education

12:00 – 1:20 pm

Confirmation with

Our Redeemer

1:00 - 5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 - 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, March 3 Office Closed

Tuesday, March 4

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, March 5

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt 5:00pm

Soup Supper

6:00pm

Ash Wednesday Worship

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, March 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

Friday, March 7

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, March 8

9:00am - 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm - 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, March 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