



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • MAY 11, 2025

CROSS

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:
Kenneth Kusiak

Livestream Producer:
Jamie Gudknecht

Lay Minister:
5/11 Phyllis Moser
5/18 Sherry Batterman

Assisting Minister:
5/11 Sherry Batterman
5/18 Patty VanderWaal

Psalm:
5/11 Duane Gudknecht
5/18 Alternative

Ushers:
5/11 Sharon Crist and
Kirby Doughty Crist
5/18 Dan and Katie
Erickson

Altar Guild:
May Sharon Crist and
Jamie Gudknecht

Coffee:
5/11 Mary Vatne and
Dottie Bingman
5/18 Stewardship/
Volunteer Sunday

May Counters:
Sherry Batterman and
Duane Gudknecht

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

Piano Sonata in E-flat Major, KV 282: I. Adagio
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs ELW847



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

*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 loving kindness.

**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

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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.

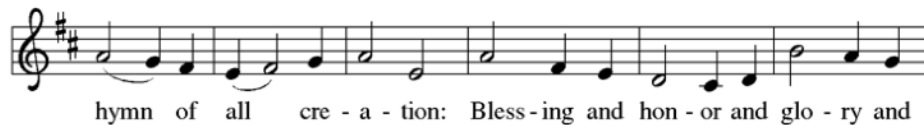
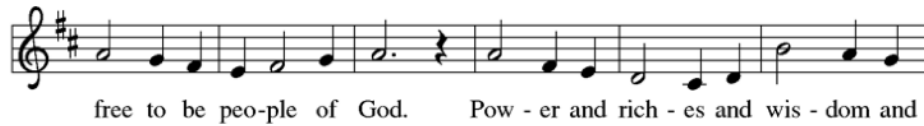
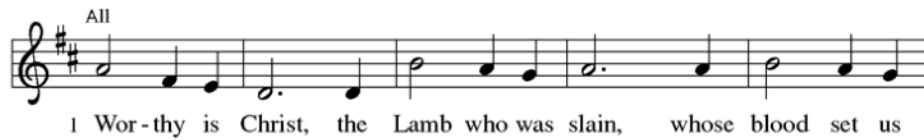
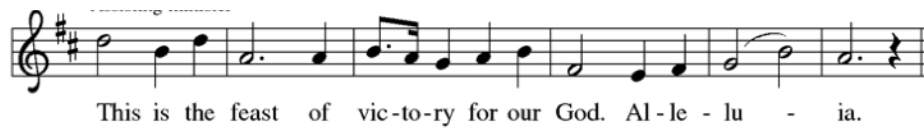
The **Kyrie** in Lutheran liturgy is a plea for mercy. Its name is derived from *Kyrie Eleison*, which in Koine Greek means "Lord, Have Mercy." Quite often, the Kyrie will include the phrase "*Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison*" which translated to English is "Lord, Have Mercy; Christ, Have Mercy; Lord, Have Mercy." The Kyrie typically occurs after the rite of Confession and Forgiveness or the Remembrance of Baptism at the beginning of worship.

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

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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all hope, with Scripture and water you claim people as your own. Claim us with water and the word, so that we may rejoice in the life given to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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

PSALM 116: 1-4, 12-19



The LORD is my shep-herd; I shall not be in want.



The Lord | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

You restore my | soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever. **R**

SECOND LESSON

Acts 8:26-39

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

*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.

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip^a baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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*GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-47

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you O, Lord.**

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah^a is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations,^a beginning from Jerusalem.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Baptized in Water

ELW456



*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

A Mother's Love

Music: Brian Carr and Ed Kee

Words: Brian Carr and Betty Fraser

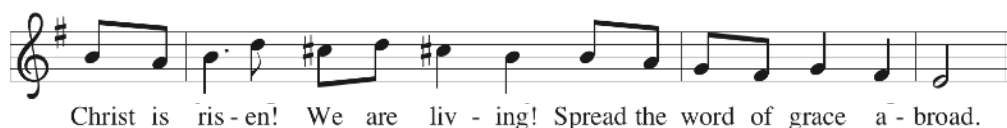
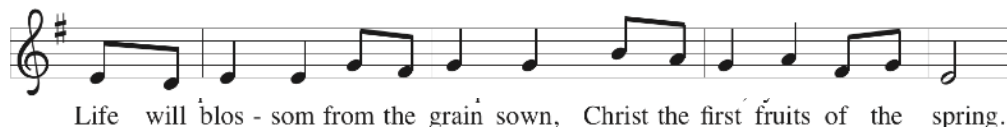
arr. Joseph Martin

CROSS CHOIR

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Christ is Living

ACS934



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for:
Marya, Sheree, Janice,
baby Hayden, Henry,
Gabby and baby Creed,
Roman Joseph, Ray and
Clara, Dawn, Brady,
Richard, Judy, Marv,
Dottie, BettyLu, Robin,
Lonna, Kelly, Steve,
Joetta and family, Rick,
Pastor Brian, Nicks,
Dean and Shirley

We offer continued
prayers for 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

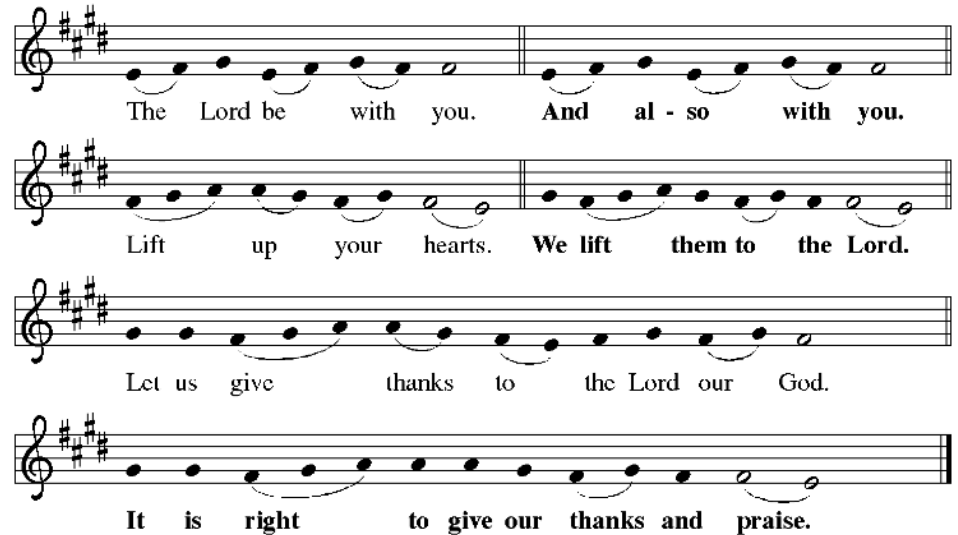
We bring our offerings
to God with grateful
hearts, in confidence
they will be used to
support the work of the
church both here and
throughout the world.

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

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



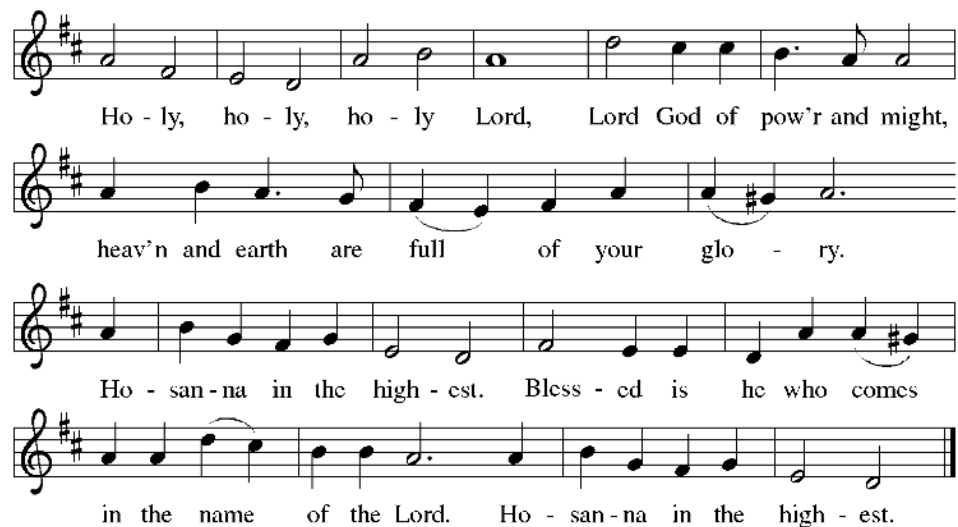
*DIALOGUE

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*PREFACE

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

p.144



*PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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, in 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...

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.

*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.

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.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

ELW638 — *Blessed Assurance*

ELW770 — *Give Me Jesus*

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

***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.

*SONG OF THANKS

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

ELW 207

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

SENDING

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

A PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

On this day in which our culture celebrates mothers and motherhood, we recognize the complex and varied relationships between mothers and children. So we offer these prayers:
To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you.

To those who lost a child this year – we mourn with you.

To those who care for little ones every day – we appreciate you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, – we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms – we need you.

To those with warm and close relationships with your children – we celebrate with you.

To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with your children – we sit with you.

To those who lost their mothers this year – we grieve with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother – we acknowledge your experience.

To those who have lived through all the tests of motherhood – we are better for having you in our midst.

To those who long to mother your own children – we support you.

To those who step-parent – we walk with you on these complex paths.

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren -yet that dream is not to be, we grieve with you.

To those who will have emptier nests in the coming year – we grieve and rejoice with you.

To those who placed children up for adoption – we commend you for your selflessness and remember you hold that child in your heart.

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising –we anticipate with you.

This Mother's Day, we remember and thank God for all of you.

adapted from "The Wide Spectrum of Mothering" by Amy Young

*BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,
 hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

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

***DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Christ is Risen. **Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!**
 Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Sonatina in F Major: 1. Allego assai

Ludwig van Beethoven

TODAY AT CROSS

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

ADULT EDUCATION continues May 25. Book study on *When Church Stops Working – a Future for Your Congregation beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation*. To order your copy, please visit <https://amzn.to/41KOj6u>.

CONFIRMATION CLASS WITH OUR REDEEMER, 11:00am - Noon

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION GATHERING, next Sunday, May 18, following worship. Join us for coffee and cake. Jill Miklausich, Principal of John Glenn, will be here to share thanks and give an update.

CROSS CHOIR – Practice is on Thursdays from 6:00-6:30pm. Anyone is welcome to participate, regardless of experience. If you have any questions, contact Ken at worship@crosslutheranchurch.org. We will be rehearsing through May for a final anthem on June 1st prior to summer break.

BELL CHOIR – Bell Choir will be rehearsing from 6:45-7:30 on Thursday evenings for the month of May. We will be discussing schedule for summer at our first rehearsal. Please come early to assist with setting up.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY meets Thursday mornings at 10:30 am in the community room. No bible study April 24.

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

May - Feminine Hygiene Products

Ongoing: Kleenex, Black Expo Markers, Coats

COMMUNITY MARKET -Next Market is May 21st

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – Contribute to the annual John Glenn/Cross Lutheran Red Cross Blood Drive, Monday, May 12 from 12:00–6:00pm at Cross. Sign up online at: redcrossblood.org; call 1-800-Red Cross; or talk to LuAnn Lund. One donation can save three lives!

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, May 11
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, May 12
Office Closed

Tuesday, May 13
1:00-5:30pm
Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, May 14
1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00 – 7:30pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, May 15
10:30am
Bible Study
11:30-2:30pm
Pastor Scott Office by apt
3:00-4:00pm
Worship at the Shores
6:00 pm
Choir Practice

Friday, May 16
1:00 - 6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm – 10:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, May 17
9:00am – 1:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia
1:30pm – 4:30pm
Cross Organ Practice
5:00 – 7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, May 18

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

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Jamie Gudknecht, 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

