

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • NOVEMBER 16, 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

Livestream Producer:
Jamie Gudknecht

Lay Minister:
11/16 Duane Gudknecht
11/23 Dave Olson

Assisting Minister:
11/16 Sherry Batterman
11/23 Phyllis Moser

Psalm:
11/16 Alternative
11/23 Duane Gudknecht

Ushers:
11/16 Phyllis Moser
and Sheree Kieffer
11/23 Sharon Crist and
Kirby Doughty Crist

Altar Guild:
Jamie Gudknecht and
Sharon Crist

Coffee:
11/16 Stewardship

November Counters:
Kay Olson 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.*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE In Christ There Is No East or West arr. Sherri Hansen Global Tune Medley

*GATHERING HYMN All Are Welcome

All are wel - come, friend and stran - ger at the ban - quet of the Sav - ior.

All are wel - come. All are wel - come here.

From the wo - man who comes cry - ing,
From the ones to who the feel for - got - ten,
Go in to the streets and cit - ies,

leav - ing tears at Je - sus' feet, to the man who
those who sense their place is gone, to the ones who
to the farms and fam - i - lies, tell a - bout the

knows the right way but can - not see.
live in hun - ger, here you be - long.
splen - did ta - ble, God's mer - cy.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Oh peo - ple of God, the Lord be with you. **All:** And may the Lord

be with you too. **Leader:** The Spir - it calls us to re - mem - ber

All: Oh Lord we lift our hearts to you. **All:** We fail to love you with our
You bid us come out from the

whole hearts or love our neigh - bors as we should. And so we're
sha - dows in - to the light by which we see Our sins for

ask - ing for for - give - ness Oh set us free and make us good.
give - en and for - got - ten for Jes - sus' sake we're clear and free

*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

Kyrie We Pray

Simmons



Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison we pray

Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison we

pray let there be peace let there be life let there be
 pray for all the sighing for all the starving for all the
 pray we trust your promise we crave your presence we need for-

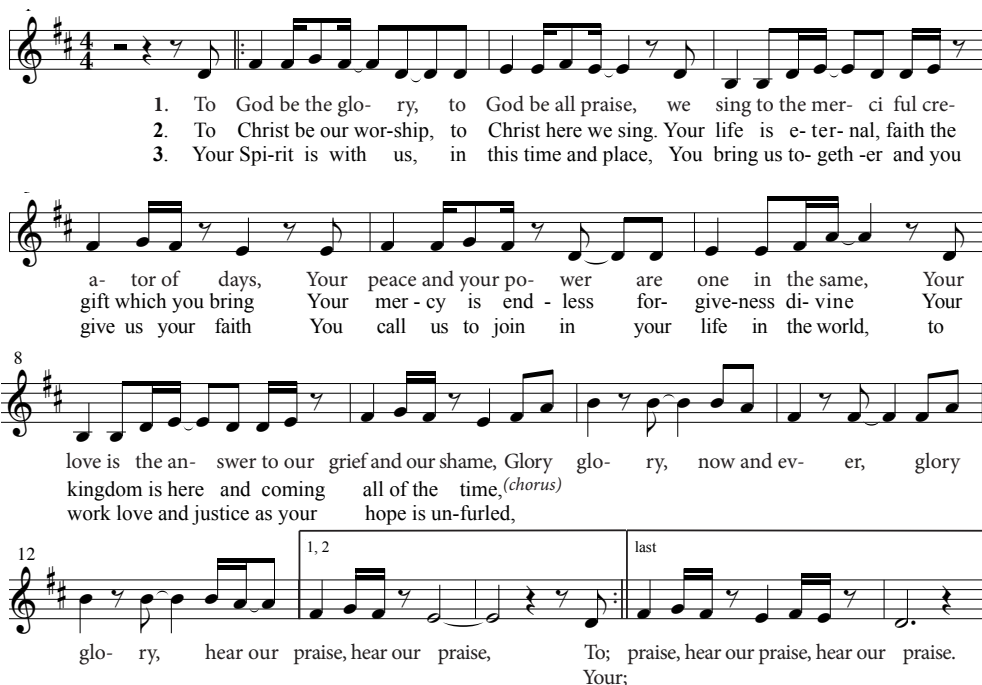
love, let us have faith no more be war, no more be
 aching we lift our prayer for all the crying for all the
 givenness Lord, hear our prayer we trust your power we crave your

death, no more be hate, let us have faith
 fearing for all the lonely we lift our prayer
 blessing we need re-storing Lord, hear our prayer

SONG OF PRAISE

To God Be The Glory

Simmons



1. To God be the glo- ry, to God be all praise, we sing to the mer- ci ful cre-
 2. To Christ be our wor-ship, to Christ here we sing. Your life is e- ter- nal, faith the
 3. Your Spi-rit is with us, in this time and place, You bring us to- geth- er and you

a- tor of days, Your peace and your po- wer are one in the same, Your
 gift which you bring Your mer- cy is end- less for- give-ness di- vine, Your
 give us your faith You call us to join in your life in the world, to

love is the an- swer to our grief and our shame, Glory glo- ry, now and ev- er, glory
 kingdom is here and coming all of the time, (chorus)
 work love and justice as your hope is un-furled,

glo- ry, hear our praise, hear our praise, To; praise, hear our praise, hear our praise.
 Your;

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of light, There can be overwhelming obscurity in this world. But you shine your light and increase joy, and for your brilliance we are grateful. Amen.

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.

WORD

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

*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

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27, 1, 4-9

Your steadfast love O Lord reaches the
heavens, Your faithfulness,
to the clouds.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold^a of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.
Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.
Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Simmons



*GOSPEL

John 8:12-16

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

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Then the Pharisees said to him, “You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.” Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.

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

*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.

SERMON

*SONG OF THE DAY

Jesus, the Light of the World

ACS914



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*STATEMENT OF BELIEF

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Lord have mer- cy, Christ have mer- cy, Lord have mer- cy, hear our prayer, 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 peace with those around you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*This week we pray for:
Lisa, Marya, Sheree,
baby Hayden, Henry,
Gabby and baby Creed,
Ray and Clara, Dawn,
Brady, Richard, Judy,
Marv, Dottie, BettyLu,
Robin, Lonna, Bruce,
Kelly, Steve, Rick,
Pastor Brian, Nick,
Joshua, Rose, Muiren,
Kimberly, Gayle, Dean
and Shirley, Jerod,
Ruthann, Mary Beth,
Stacey and Cristina.*

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Romanze, Op. 57, No. 4

Niels Wilhelm Gade

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.

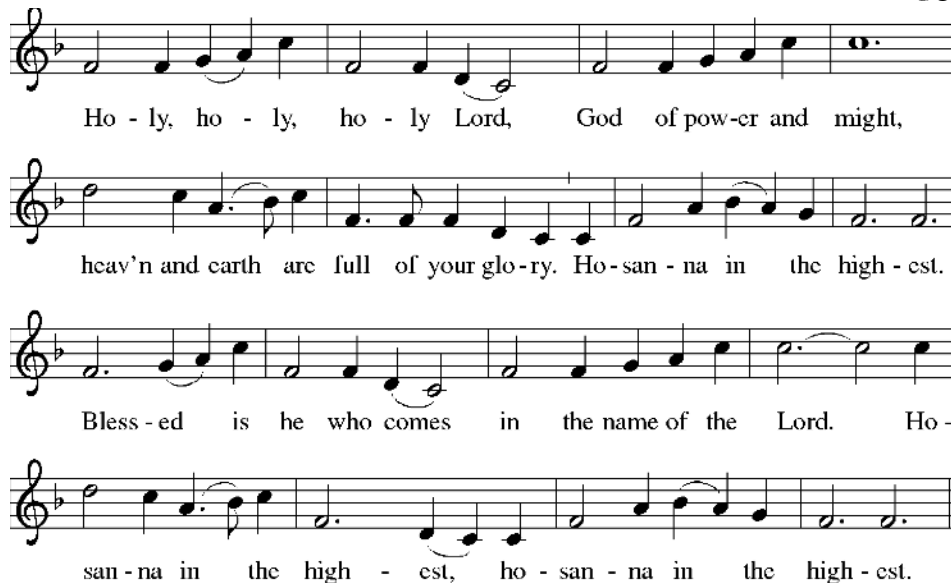
*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you And also 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

pg. 207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho-san-na in the high - est.

*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 all believers to participate in the sacred story, that...

*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.

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.**

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.

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

*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.**

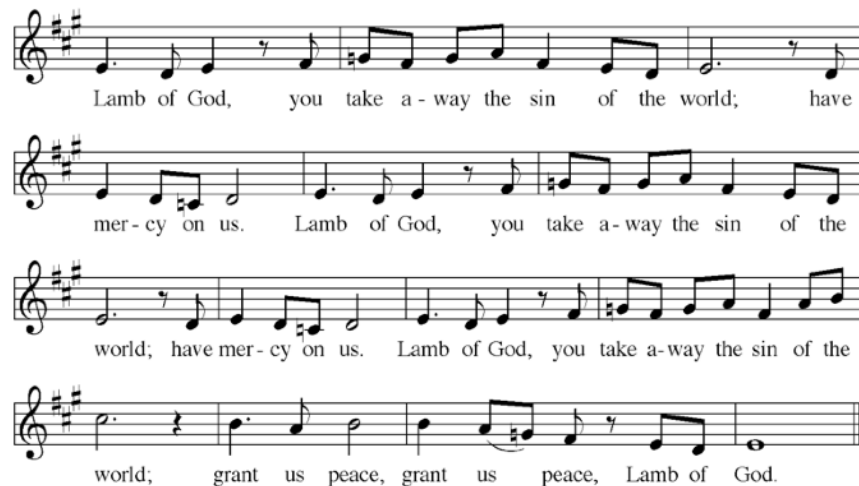
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

LAMB OF GOD



Communion hymns: ELW471 — *Let Us Break Bread Together*
ELW487 — *What Feast of Love*

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING "Give Thanks"



SENDING

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

*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

*SENDING SONG

Hands, Hearts, and Voices

CLH001

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

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score includes a two-part verse (1 and 2) and a final chorus. The lyrics are: 'We have a call that draws our souls to - geth-er that was there be - fore we came and will be there for - ev - er: We have a need to reach out for each oth-er whe-ther old or young, weak or strong, in Christ's own love we be - long to - geth-er. 1 The hands that hold, the hands that guide, the hands that ease our hurt-ing in - side. The 2 The voice that sings, the voice that laughs, that light - ens our un - cer - tain path. The hands that reach for bread and wine, that brings God's peace in these trou-bled times. voice that in-spires the voice that in-quires, what does God's love mean to me? Will we stand in the night will we be God's light? Will we find the strength we lack? Will our hands be will-ing will our voi-ces be strong to ing the dark-ness back? We have a call that draws our souls to - geth-er that was there be-fore we came and will be there for-ev - er. We have a need to reach ut for each oth-er Whe-ther old or young, weak or strong, in Christ's own love we be - long to - geth-er. We will clap our hands, (clap clap) Clap our hands, (clap clap) and pray with one an - oth - er. We will sing our song, praise the Lord, and love each oth-er.'

We have a call that draws our souls to - geth-er that was there be - fore we came and will be there for - ev - er:

We have a need to reach out for each oth-er whe-ther old or young,
weak or strong, in Christ's own love we be - long to - geth-er.

1 The hands that hold, the hands that guide, the hands that ease our hurt-ing in - side. The
2 The voice that sings, the voice that laughs, that light - ens our un - cer - tain path. The

hands that reach for bread and wine, that brings God's peace in these trou-bled times.
voice that in-spires the voice that in-quires, what does God's love mean to me?

Will we stand in the night will we be God's light? Will we find the strength we lack? Will our
hands be will-ing will our voi-ces be strong to ing the dark-ness back? We have a
call that draws our souls to - geth-er that was there be-fore we came and will be there for-ev - er.

We have a need to reach ut for each oth-er Whe-ther old or young,
weak or strong, in Christ's own love we be - long to - geth-er.

We will clap our hands, (clap clap) Clap our hands, (clap clap) and pray with one an -
oth - er. We will sing our song, praise the Lord, and love each oth-er.

***DISMISSAL**

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

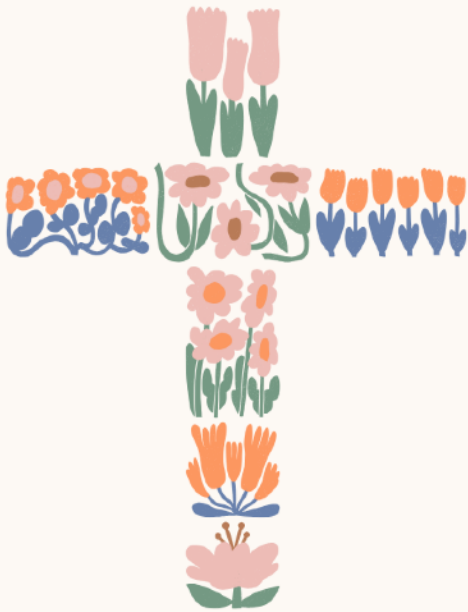
POSTLUDE

Little Prelude in C Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

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PLEDGE SUNDAY TODAY

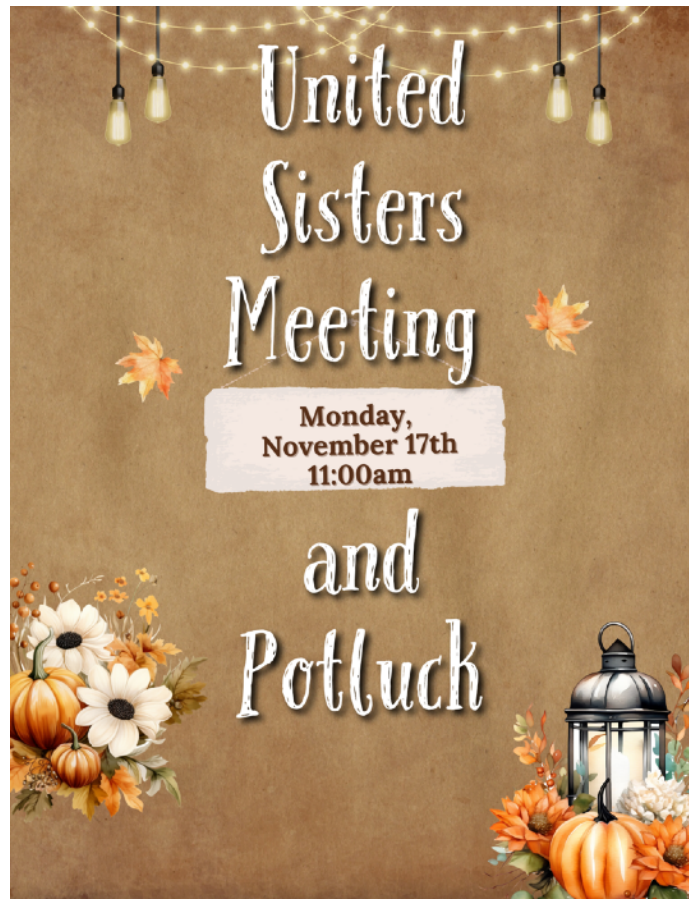


During the worship service we will have time to place our pledges in a basket. If you want, you can place them in the offering plate. The pledges are vital to the budget planning process which will begin at the end of the year for 2026.

If you are not in church on the 16th, please return your pledge card to the church office by then.



Tuesday,
November 25,
6:00 pm



Fall Launching Pad Items

Sweatpants

Sizes: Kids L, XL

Adults: S - XXL

Fem. Hygiene Products

Pads

Bar Soap

Ongoing:

Kleenex, Black

ExpoMarkers,

Coats

TODAY AT CROSS

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

ADULT EDUCATION . First session of **Voices of Advent**. Join Pastor Scott for **Voices of Advent**, an exploration of the Advent season through the voices of Jesus and Mary, John the Baptist and John the Apostle, Zachariah, prophets and angels. This four week series begins today.



FLESHPOTS OF EGYPT will be playing Monday, November 17th, 6:30pm

PPC MEETING - Tuesday, Nov. 18th, 6:00pm

COMMUNITY MARKET - Wednesday, Nov. 19th. Set up begins at 1:30pm. Market runs from 2:30-5:00pm.

CROSS CHOIR — There will be Cross Choir rehearsal on Thursday, November 20th from 6:00-7:00 pm. We will also have a short rehearsal after Thanksgiving service to rehearse for the following Sunday. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

BELL CHOIR — There will be a Bell Choir rehearsal the week of November 30th from 6:00-7:00 pm. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY meets every week at 11:00 am

**NEXT COMMUNITY MARKET
NOVEMBER 19th**

WE NEED BAGS

We have depleted our supply of paper and plastic bags. Please keep your bags (especially paper) for the next market!

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, November 16

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee and Fellowship

11:00am

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, November 17

Office Closed

6:30pm

Fleshpots of Egypt

Tuesday, November 18

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

6:00pm

PPC Meeting

Wednesday, November 19

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

2:30pm

Community Market

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, November 20

11:00am

Bible Study

1:00-2:00pm

Worship at the Shores

2:30-5:00pm

Pastor Scott Office by apt

6:00pm

Choir Practice

Friday, November 21

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, November 22

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, November 23

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

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

Jamie Gudknecht, administrative assistant office@crosslutheranchurch.org

Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org

Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org