



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER † APRIL 26, 2026

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:
4/26 Duane Gudknecht
5/3 Sherry Batterman

Assisting Minister:
4/26 Carolyn Border
5/3 Phyllis Moser

Psalms:
4/26 Katie Erickson
5/3 Duane Gudknecht

Ushers:
4/26 Phyllis Moser and
Sheree Kieffer
5/3 Sharon Crist

Coffee:
4/26 Diana Border and
Bonnie Davidson

Altar Guild:
LuAnn Lund and
Carolyn Border

April Counters:
Kay Stack and Diana
Border

Flowers:
Kay Stack in memory of
Allen Stack

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

Nun danket all

Friedrich Hark

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

When Our Song Says Peace

ELW709



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will
2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will
3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.
who o - pens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.
who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen..**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us
from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that
we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious
God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given
ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In
your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have
done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us
by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
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 above, and for our sal - va - tion, 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 u - ni - ty 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.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



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



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



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



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of freedom, Paul and Silas worshiped you, even when they were flogged and imprisoned. Transform our hearts so that we may also rejoice in you at all times and in all situations. 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

Acts 16:16-23

One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

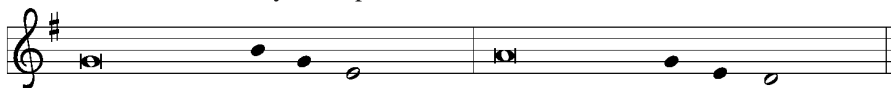
But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

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

Psalm 23



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 beside 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. R**

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**

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

SECOND LESSON

Acts 16:24-34

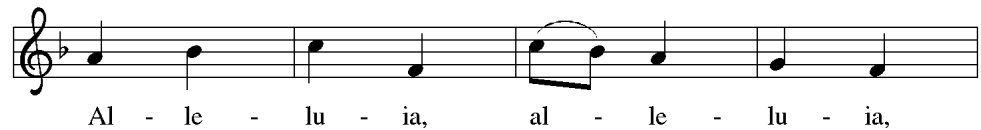
About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

*ALLELUIA

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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.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL

Luke 6:18-19, 22-23

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

They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY **If You But Trust In God to Guide You** ELW769



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

***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 in Your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*This week we pray for:
 Lisa, Marya, Sheree,
 Marie, baby Hayden,
 Gabby and baby Creed,
 Ray and Clara, Henry,
 Dawn, Brady, Judy, Marv,
 Dottie, BettyLu, Lonna,
 Bruce, Kelly, Pastor Brian,
 Nick, Joshua, Rose, Dean
 and Shirley, Mike, MaryJo,
 Jose and family, Lew, the
 Johns family, Barb, Janice,
 Lindsay, Ron, and the
 Marilyn Lewinski family.*

*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.

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

OFFERTORY

Andante con moto

Johann Erasmus Kindermann

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW188

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*OFFERING PRAYER

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

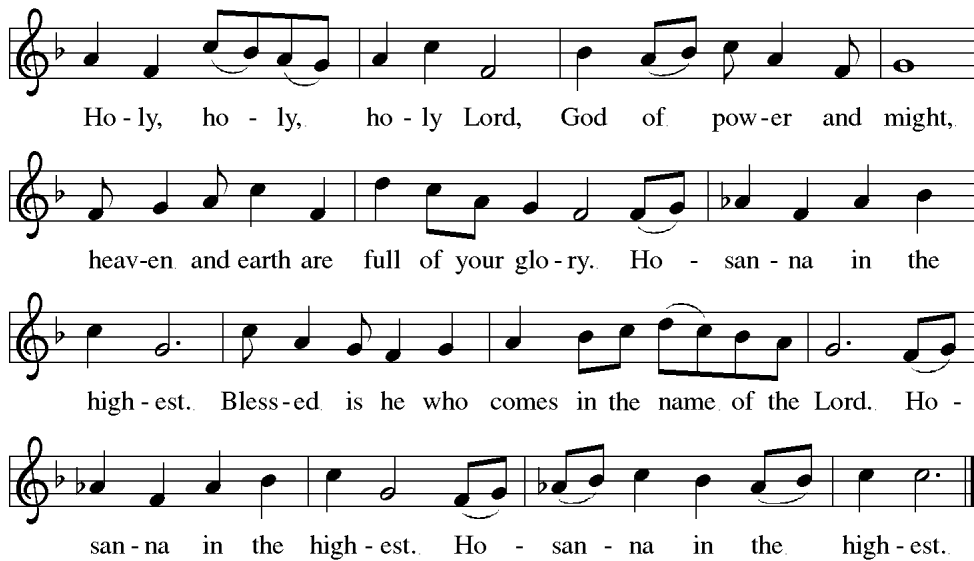
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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

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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. 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 God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars;
beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.
We praise you, O God.
Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water;
by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.
We bless you, O God.
We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
We thank you, O God.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

We remember the gift of your presence through Christ, by the Spirit, as we share in this sacred story:
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 Christ's love for us on the way,
at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal; among your people;
throughout the world.

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.*

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you,
 holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
 in your church, without end. **Amen.**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.**

Today we practice continuous communion using a pouring chalice as a common cup. Ushers will invite you to proceed up the aisle towards the pastor. Please offer cupped hands to receive the bread. Proceed to the cupbearer, select an empty cup and hold it for the lay minister to fill. Please recycle your cup in the basket provided and return via the side aisle.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please tell the pastor when you approach to receive the bread. Pre-filled 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 in the narthex.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

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.

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SONGS DURING COMMUNION

- ELW396 – *Spirit of Gentleness*
- ELW413 – *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!*

DISTRIBUTION

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

***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 - jice 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. Amen.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you.
God shine on you with grace and mercy.
God look upon you with favor and † give you peace. Amen.

SENDING SONG When In Our Music God Is Glorified ELW851

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



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
2 How oft, in mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night when ut - most
5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise; let all re -



ra - tion leaves no room for pride, it is as
men - sion in the world of sound, as wor - ship
love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness
e - vil strove a - gainst the light? Then let us
joi - ce who have a voice to raise; and may God



though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
moved us to a more pro - found
to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
sing, for whom he won the fight:
give us faith to sing al - ways:

***DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Live and share the good news. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Little Prelude in C, BWV 939 Johann Sebastian Bach

FLOWERS - The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Allen Stack by Kay Stack.

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

ADULT EDUCATION New series—**Heaven and Hell**—continues today

PPC MEETING - Tuesday, April 28th, 6:00pm

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY meets Thursdays at 11:00 am. All are welcome.

CROSS CHOIR—Next rehearsal will be on Thursday, April 30th from 6:30-7:30, following bell rehearsal. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

BELL CHOIR—Next bell choir rehearsal Thursday, May 7th, from 5:30-6:30. Rehearsals will be typically held twice a month going forward. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.



LAST COMMUNITY MARKET
(for the school year)
is **May 20th!**

Spring launching pad

Fem. Hygiene Products	Ongoing:
Pads	Kleenex, Black ExpoMarkers,
Bar Soap	Coats

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



THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, April 26

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

11:00-12:00pm

Adult Education

1:00-5:00

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, April 27

2:00-5:00pm

Pastor Scott office drop-in

Tuesday, April 28

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by

appt

6:00pm

PPC Meeting

Wednesday, April 29

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, April 30

11:00am

Bible Study

1:00-2:00pm

Worship at the Shores

2:30-5:00pm

Pastor Scott Office

6:30pm

Cross Choir

Friday, May 1

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, May 2

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, May 3

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