

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ✚ JULY 5, 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:
7/5 Sherry Batterman
7/12 Duane Gudknecht

Assisting Minister:
7/5 Carolyn Border
7/12 Katie Erickson

Psalm:
7/5 Duane Gudknecht
7/12 Katie Erickson

Ushers:
7/5 Dan and Katie Erickson
7/12 Nic Villodres and Carolyn Border

Coffee:
7/5 Diana Border and Bonnie discharger

Altar Guild:
Sherry Batterman

Counters:
Kay Olson and Linda Duncan

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

Down a Country Lane

Aaron Copland

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

ELW557



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im - passionate re - sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain

for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 Zechariah 9:9-12

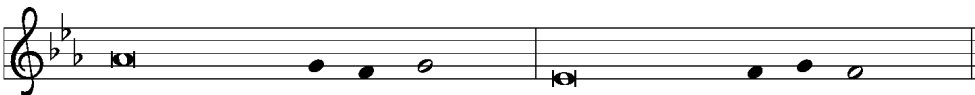
Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to 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.*

Psalm 145:8-14



Call up - on me in the day of trou - ble, says your God.



The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
**LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works. R**
All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.
**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**
that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion
endures through- out all ages.**
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.
The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down. **R**

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

*ALLELUIA

p.188

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

[[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:]] "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

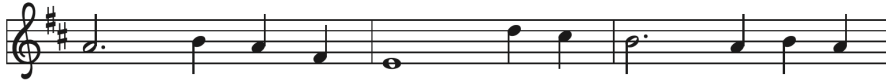
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

SERMON



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
 fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
 yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
 me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
 fore you; do not run from me in fright."
 side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
 gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

*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

Lord in Your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY Lord, We Come Before Thee Now Thomas Canning

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for:
 This week we pray for:
 Lisa, Marya, Sheree,
 Marie, Mary, Janice, baby
 Hayden, Gabby and baby
 Creed, Ray and Clara,
 Henry, Dawn, Brady, Judy,
 Marv, Dottie, BettyLu,
 Rick, Bruce, Kelly, Pastor
 Brian, Nick, Joshua, Rose,
 Dean and Shirley, Mike,
 MaryJo, Jose and family,
 Lew, Barb, Lindsay, Ron,
 Molly, Bob, Raphael,
 Nancy, the McDonald
 family, Dave Olson and
 family, the Marilyn
 Lewinski family, Zach, and
 the Rick Novak family.

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.

We remember God's faithfulness to God's people and God's purposes.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
 Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
 so that all creation can taste your abundance.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit
 abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***DIALOGUE**

p.129

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**

p.130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, 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.

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:

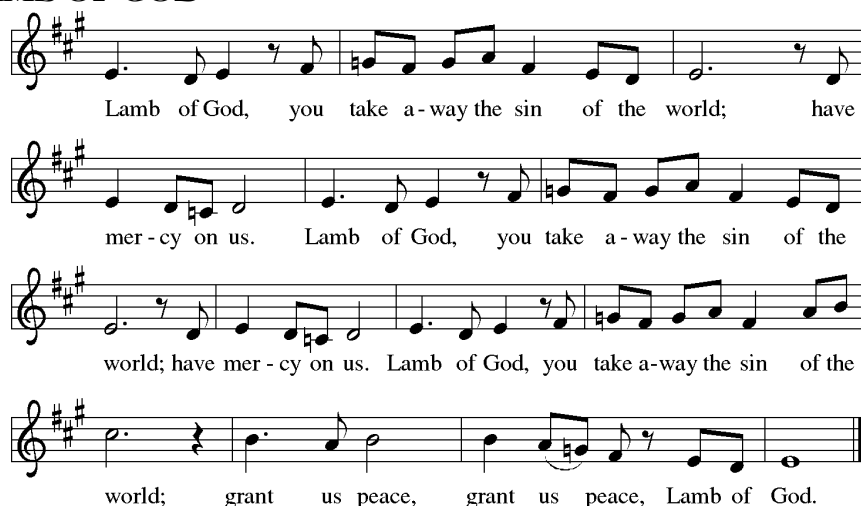
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

p.135

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

ELW 485 — *I Am the Bread of Life*

ELW 592 — *Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

**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 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.

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

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 - 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. 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 mercy and grace.
 God look upon you with favor and † give you peace. Amen.

SENDING SONG

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW765

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,
 whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:
 be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,
 your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live God's welcome wherever you go.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Homage to Marya Freund and to the Harp

Virgil Thomson

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Tuesday Singalong

Next Singalong is July 21 at
6pm under the portico. Bring a
lawn chair!

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

ADULT EDUCATION is taking a break for a couple of weeks. Stay tuned for details about our next series.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY now meets Thursdays at 10:30 am. All are welcome.

CROSS CHOIR—Thank you to everyone who sang this season in choir. Your gifts are greatly appreciated. We will be recommencing rehearsals again in September. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

BELL CHOIR—Next bell choir rehearsal **Thursday, July 9th**, 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.



It is that time of year again! We will be packing meals at the Feed My Starving Children site in Eagan. It will be Saturday, July 18th. Last year, Cross Lutheran assembled 23 boxes producing 4,968 meals which went to Liberia and Haiti.

Plan to meet at the Eagan site, 900 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, at 9:15am. Lunch will be provided following our packing session at the home of Rita and Jim Gaubert, 1382 St. Andrew Boulevard, Eagan.

They do have "sit down" jobs available if standing does not work for you. We can also arrange carpools for those not wanting to drive.

Please sign up in the Narthex if you will be attending. Questions? Contact Rita at 651-343-7024 or email at rkdgaubert@gmail.com

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, July 5

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

1:00-5:00

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, July 6

Office Closed

Tuesday, July 7

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, July 8

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, July 9

10:30am

Bible Study

1:00-2:00pm

Worship at the Shores

2:00-5:00pm

Pastor Scott **office drop-in**

5:30pm

Bell Choir practice

Friday, July 10

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, July 11

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, July 12

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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Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org
Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org