



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ✚ JULY 12, 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:
Emily Erickson and
Paul Schafer

Lay Minister:
7/12 Katie Erickson
7/19 Phyllis Moser

Assisting Minister:
7/12 Carolyn Border
7/19 Sherry Batterman

Psalm:
7/12 Katie Erickson
7/19 Alternative

Ushers:
7/12 Nic Villodres and
Carolyn Border
7/19 Marilee and Dave
Jackson

Coffee:
7/12 No Volunteers
7/19 Sheree Kieffer

Altar Guild:
Linda Duncan and Lisa
LeMay

Counters:
Kay 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

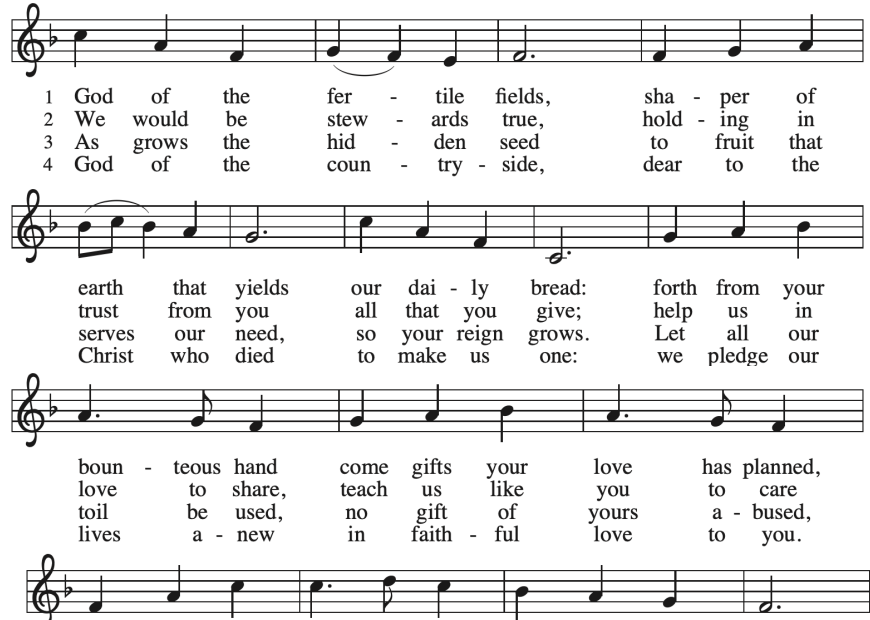
Meditation on a Folk Song

O WALY, WALY
arr. Joseph M. Martin

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

God of the Fertile Fields

ACS1063



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

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-passioned 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

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through 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

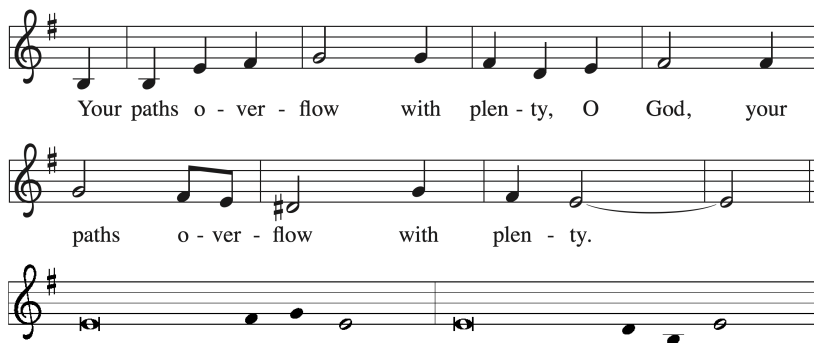
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 65:9-13



You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing. **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.*

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 7:15-25a

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

*ALLELUIA

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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 13:1-9, 18-23

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

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY **The Word of God Is Source and Seed** ELW506



1 The Word of God is source and seed; it comes to
 2 The Word of God is breath and life; it comes to
 3 The Word of God is flesh and grace, who comes to

die and sprout and grow. So make your dark earth
 heal and wake and save. So let the Spir - it
 sing, to laugh and cry. So dare to be as

wel - come warm; root deep the grain God bent to sow.
 touch and mend and rouse your dry bones from their grave.
 Je - sus was, who came to live and love and die.

Refrain
 Gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no, gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no,
 In the Lord let us re - joice, in the Lord let us re - joice,

gau - de - a - mus Do mi - no!
 in the Lord let us re - joice!

*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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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, Trudy,
 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 tab

MEAL

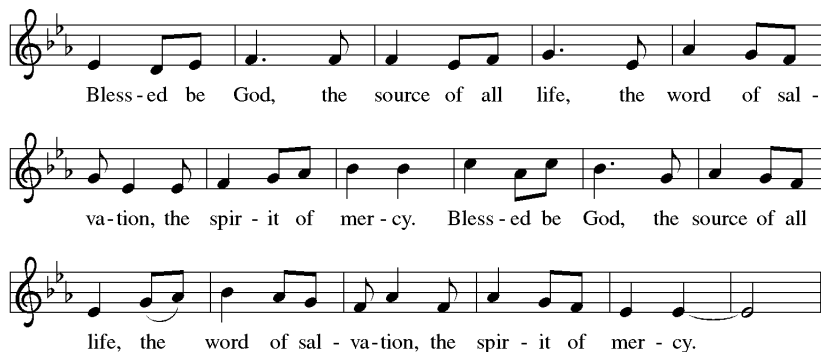
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Appalachian Sunrise

Joseph M. Martin

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS Blessed be God, the Source of All Life ELW209



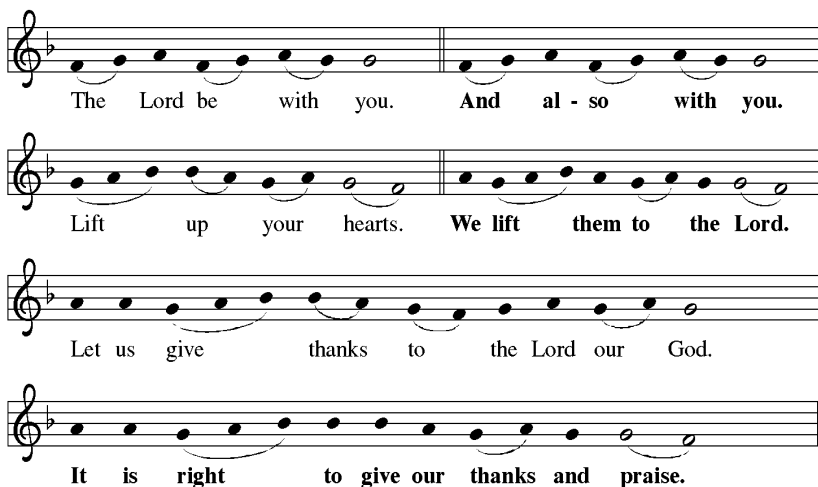
*OFFERING PRAYER

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

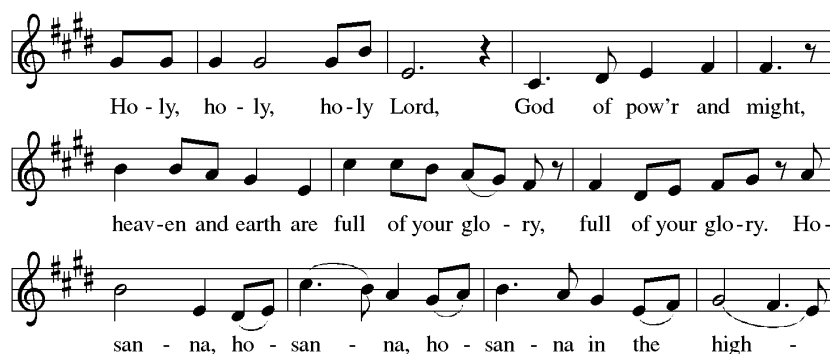
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*PREFACE

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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*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.**

***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 juice cups are available in the silver tray.

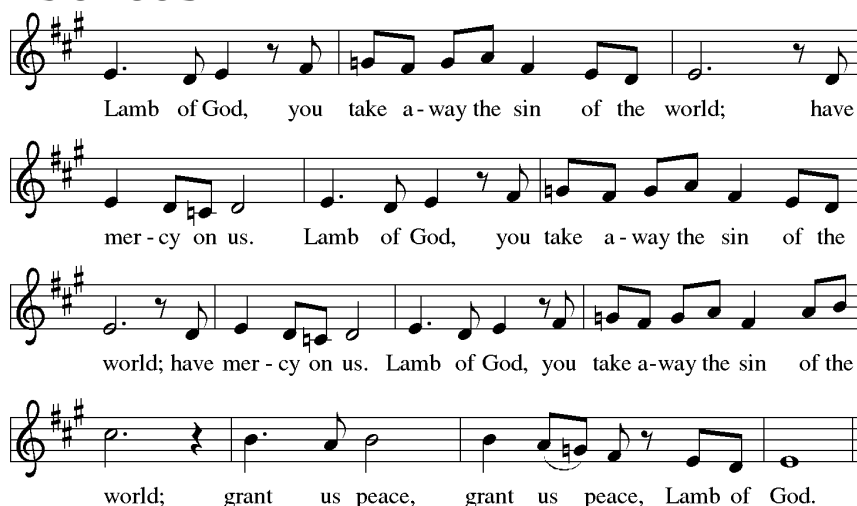
Children who are not yet communing and others wishing not to commune may receive a blessing from the pastor. Please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

ELW 342 — *There In God's Garden*

ELW 752 — *Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying*

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

*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 OF SENDING—NIC VILLODRES

*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

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

ELW547



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing to God ev-er-liv-ing,
the peo-ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face—
The sup-per is end-ed. Oh, now be ex-tend-ed
our faith ev-er shar-ing, in love ev-er car-ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

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

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Promised Land

Traditional American Melody
(attr. Matilda T. Durham)
arr. Joseph M. Martin



August 4, 5 pm—8 pm. Save the Date.

This August, Cross is partnering with the City of Maplewood and several of our congregational partners to host a simple and fun National Night Out celebration for our partners and neighbors. We'll have food and drink, yard games, and live music from the Fleshpots of Egypt. Stay tuned to the bulletin and social media for more information as the planning continues. If you are interested in helping with planning, please contact Pastor Scott, Jamie Gudknecht, or Sharon Crist.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Join us after worship in the community room for fellowship and MAYBE 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 is on a temporary hiatus. Stay tuned for updates.

CROSS CHOIR—Will return in September. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

BELL CHOIR—Next bell choir rehearsal will be in August. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.



Tuesday Singalong

Next Singalong is July 14 at 6pm under the portico. Bring a lawn chair and your best voice!

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR Feed My Starving Children, Saturday, July 18.

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 12

9:30am
Sunday Worship
10:30am
Coffee Fellowship
1:00-5:00
Promesa De Dios
5:00 – 9:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

Monday, July 13
Office Closed

Tuesday, July 14
1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, July 15
1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, July 16
10:30am
Bible Study
1:00-2:00pm
Worship at the Shores
2:00-5:00pm
Pastor Scott office drop-in

Friday, July 17
1:00 – 6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm – 10:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, July 18
9:00am-12:00pm
Feed My Starving Children
9:00am – 1:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia
1:30pm – 4:30pm
Cross Organ Practice
5:00 – 7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, July 19
9:30am
Sunday Worship
10:30am
Coffee and fellowship
1:00-5:00pm
Promesa De Dios
5:00 – 9:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

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Jamie Gudknecht, administrative assistant office@crosslutheranchurch.org
Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org
Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org

