



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • AUGUST 16, 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:
8/16 Duane Gudknecht
8/23 Phyllis Moser

Assisting Minister:
8/16 Carolyn Border
8/23 Sherry Batterman

Psalm:
8/16 Alternative
8/23 Peter Brown

Ushers:
8/16 Marilee and Dave
Jackson
8/23 Sharon Crist and
Phyllis Moser

Coffee:
8/16 Sheree Kieffer

Altar Guild:
Joann Nordrum

Counters:
Duane Gudknecht and
Sherry Batterman

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

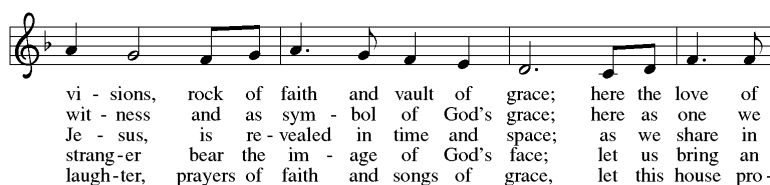
All are Welcome

Marty Haugen
arr. Mark Hayes

ELW641

*GATHERING HYMN

All are Welcome



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



*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-

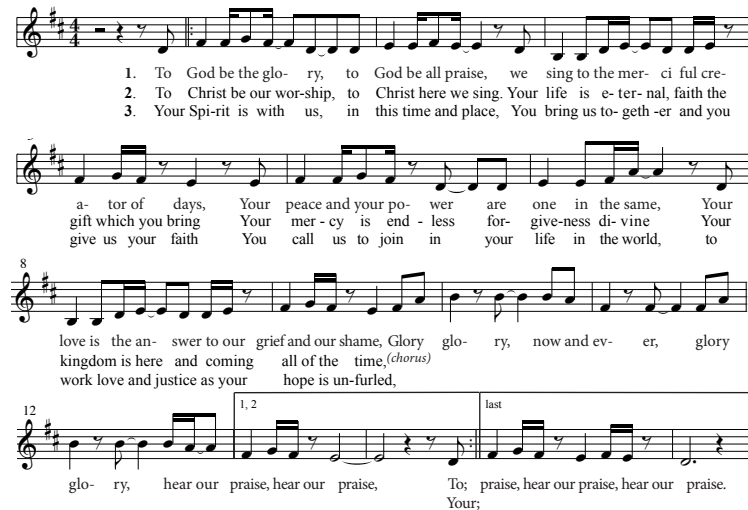
love, let us have faith no more be war, no more be
aching we lift our prayer for all the crying for all the
givenness Lord, hear our prayer we trust your power we crave your

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 all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

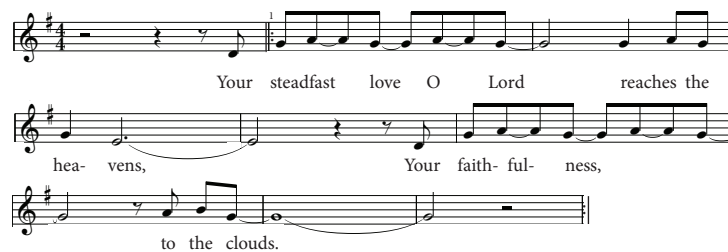
Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

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

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 67



May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.	Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.	The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.	May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.	

*God has not rejected
Israel. Rather, the call
and gifts of God are
irrevocable so that, while
all have been
disobedient, God has
mercy upon all.*

SECOND LESSON **Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

[Paul writes:] I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

*ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Simmons



*GOSPEL

Matthew 15: 21-28

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

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

In the preceeding paragraph, Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

SERMON

*SONG OF THE DAY

Lord, My Strength

W&P93

1 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;
2 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a - lone:

Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan - d'ring heart.
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe - ly home.

Be my eyes, be my ears, be the on -
Ev'-ry step that I make, be the road

- ly voice I hear; guide my soul, give me sight,
I will take; be the thoughts that I keep

help me walk with - in your light.
and in ev - 'ry word I speak.

3 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan - d'ring heart.

Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a - lone:

Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe - ly home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for: This week we pray for: Nancy, Lisa, Marya, Marv, Sheree, Marie, Janice, Niki, baby Hayden, Gabby and baby Creed, Ray and Clara, Henry, Dawn, Brady, Judy, Dottie, BettyLu, Bruce, Kelly, Trudy and Murlyn, Pastor Brian, Nick, Joshua, Rose, Dean and Shirley, MaryJo, Lew, Barb, Lindsay, Molly, Bob, Raphael, Maja, Kenny and family, Niki, Dave Olson and family, Zach, the O'Brien family, and the Rick Novak family.

We offer continued prayers for family and friends of Mary Vayne.

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

*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 THE PEOPLE



*SHARING 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.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Old French Song

Peter I. Tchaikovsky

OFFERING PRAYER

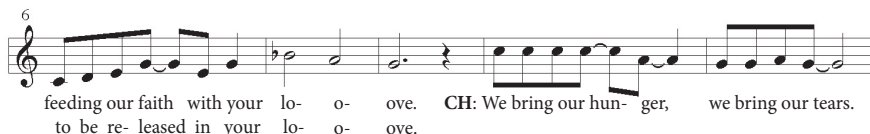
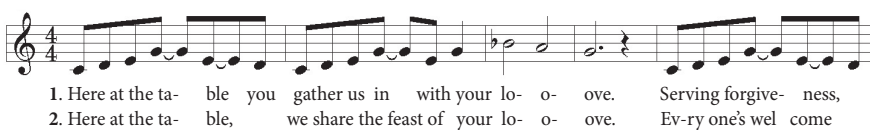
Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

Here at the Table

Simmons



11 We bring our hopes and the things we hold dear. You take them all and in mercy unite us as one.

15 3. Here at the ta- ble you ga- ther us in with your lo- o- ove.

21 Serving for- give- ness, feeding our faith with your lo- o- ove, with your lo- o- ove, with your

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.

DIALOGUE

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

Simmons

1 Ho- ly ho- ly God, Al- migh- ty in Christ Je- sus, You are

5 here, You are here. Ho- ly ho- ly, Christ Al- migh- ty, in Your Spir- it, You are

9 here, You are here, You are here.

*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.

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.

*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.**

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.

Communion hymn: ELW423 — Shall We Gather at the River

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Give Thanks

W&P41



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be-cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son. (repeat)



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

SENDING

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

*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

*SENDING SONG

Go Now

Peterson/Olson



vs. 1 Filled with the Ho - ly Spir - it go now with God,
vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand to a stran - ger
vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us
vs. 4 Cross-ing ev' - ry bound'-ry, ev' - ry na - tion



go now with God. In - to the world as a serv - ant
Trust-ing in the ris - en sav - ior
Grace on the jour - ney sur - rounds us
Danc-ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion



go now with God, go now with God. Go now,



go now, go now with God.



Go now, go now, go now with God.

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.

ANOIDING 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.

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Little Prelude in C

Johann Sebastian Bach

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September 13, 2026

John Glenn School Supply Time



School supplies are appearing in stores. Here's the John Glenn wish list. Thanks so much for your continued support!

Spiral Notebooks	Colored Markers
Plastic two-pocket folders	Highlighters
Colored Pencils	AAA Batteries
Glue Sticks	Pencils
Expo Markers (Black)	Kleenex
	Backpacks

Community Market is coming!

Join us for love, laughter, and unforgettable moments.

AUGUST		
25	26	27

Date: AUGUST 26, 2026

Location: JOHN GLENN MIDDLE SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE
3:00PM - 6:00PM
PIZZA PROVIDED
SET UP BEGINS AT 1:30PM

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

ADULT EDUCATION today with Conscience and Conversation. 11 am in the community room.

FLESHPOTS OF EGYPT - Monday, August 27th, 6:30pm

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP - Meets Tuesday, August 25th at 6pm

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT FOLLOW-UP - Meets Tuesday, August 25th at 7:00pm

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.



Beginning in 2022, the ELCA Council has been reconsidering the 2009 ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, which opened opportunities for people in same-gendered sexual relationships to serve as rostered leaders (pastors and deacons) in the ELCA.

The second phase of this process is an opportunity for congregational discernment among ELCA congregations.

You are invited to join Pastor Scott during adult education to study, discern, and consider this important issue in our church. We will meet on four successive Sundays in August: 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS Sunday, August 16

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, August 17

Office Closed

6:30pm

Fleshpots of Egypt

Tuesday, August 18

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

6:00-7:00pm

Board of Stewardship

7:00-8:00pm

Debrief of NNO Event

Wednesday, August 19

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, August 20

1:00-2:00pm

Worship at the Shores

2:00-5:00pm

Pastor Scott office drop-in

Friday, August 21

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, August 22

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, August 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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Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org