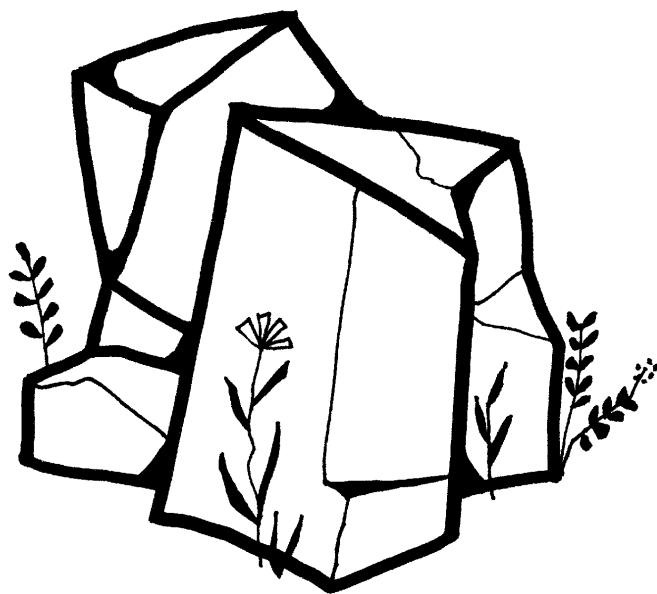




THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ✚ AUGUST 23, 2026

**CROSS**

Cross Lutheran Church

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109

[www.crosslutheranchurch.org](http://www.crosslutheranchurch.org) [office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto: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:**  
8/23 Phyllis Moser  
8/30 Dave Olson

**Assisting Minister:**  
8/23 Sherry Batterman  
8/30 Paul Schafer

**Psalm:**  
8/23 Peter Brown  
8/30 Duane Gudknecht

**Ushers:**  
8/23 Sharon Crist  
8/30 Dan and Katie  
Erickson

**Coffee:**  
8/23 Diana Border and  
Bonnie Dischinger

**Altar Guild:**  
Joann Nordrum

**Counters:**  
Duane Gudknecht and  
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

It Is Well with My Soul

Philip P. Bliss  
arr. Mark Hayes

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation ELW645



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from  
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

### 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.**

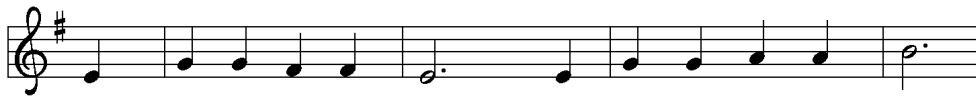
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us  
alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus  
Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through  
the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through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

## \*KYRIE

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- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, 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.**

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

## WORD

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

### FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 51:4-6**

Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation,  
for a teaching will go out from me  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.  
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;  
my salvation has gone out,  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.  
Lift up your eyes to the heavens  
and look at the earth beneath,  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats,  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 138



I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with <sup>1</sup> my whole heart;  
before the gods I will <sup>1</sup> sing your praise.  
**I will bow down toward your holy temple**  
**and praise your name, because of your steadfast <sup>1</sup> love and faithfulness;**  
**for you have glorified your name and your word a- <sup>1</sup> bove all things.**  
When I called, you <sup>1</sup> answered me;  
you increased my <sup>1</sup> strength within me.  
**All the rulers of the earth will praise <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,**  
**when they have heard the words <sup>1</sup> of your mouth. R**  
They will sing of the ways <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
that great is the glory <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.  
**The LORD is high, yet cares <sup>1</sup> for the lowly,**  
**perceiving the haughty <sup>1</sup> from afar.**  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you <sup>1</sup> keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right <sup>1</sup> hand shall save me.  
**You will make good your pur- <sup>1</sup> pose for me;**  
**O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;**  
**do not abandon the works <sup>1</sup> of your hands. R**

## SECOND LESSON

### Romans 12:1-8

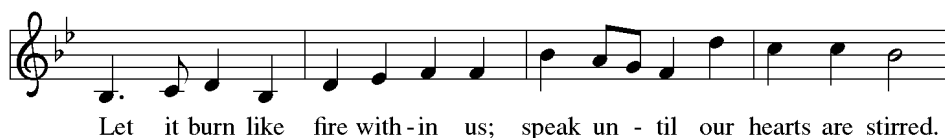
I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup> ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

### \*ALLELUIA

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### \*GOSPEL

#### Matthew 16:13-20

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

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

### SERMON

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*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 Vatne*

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

## \*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

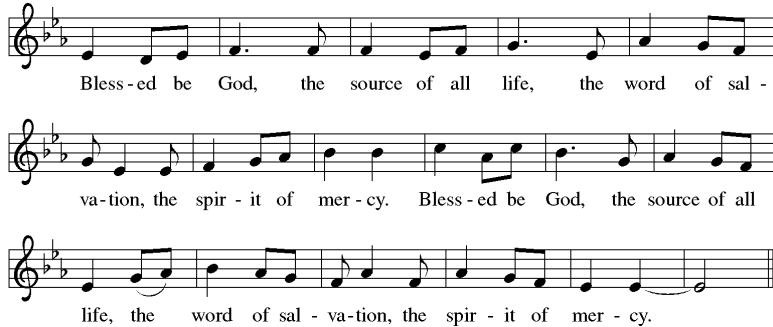
**Merciful God, receive our prayer**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERTORY**      **O daß ich tausend zungen hälte**      **Hans Arnold Metzger**  
[Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices]

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



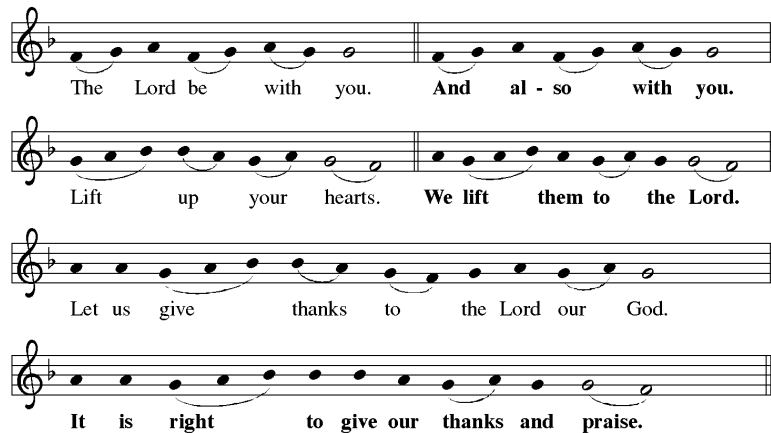
**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

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**

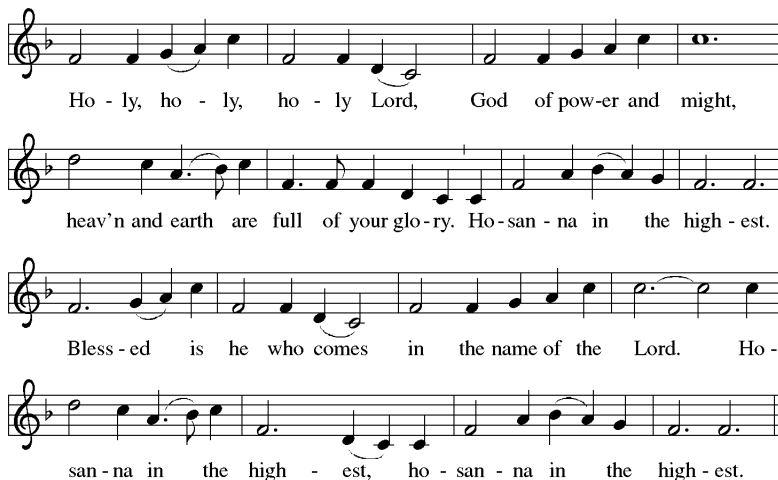
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**\*PREFACE**

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

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## **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*

***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.

## **\*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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## SONGS DURING COMMUNION

### In the Garden

I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear the Son of God discloses. **R**

**R:** *And he walks with me, And he talks with me, And he tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

He speaks, and the sound of His voice, is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
And the melody that He gave to me within my heart is ringing. **R**

Though the night around me be falling, but He bids me go;  
through the voice of woe His voice to me is calling. **R**

### Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me ELW623

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.

Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

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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.

## DISTRIBUTION

### \*COMMUNION BLESSING

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

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

### SENDING SONG

### We All Are One in Mission

ELW576



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE The Church's One Foundation

Samuel S. Wesley  
arr. Mark Hayes

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September 13, 2026



God's work. Our hands.



This year, Cross will be partnering with Promesa de Dios for God's Work Our Hands Sunday, Sept. 13. Our celebration will open with shared worship on Sunday morning, followed by a shared meal and service projects into the early afternoon. Stay tuned for more information and how you can be involved.

## 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

## John Glenn School Supply



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

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

**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.

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**PPC MEETING** - Tuesday, August 25th at 6pm

**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 for our final session today, at 11:15 in the community room.

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## **God's Work, Our Hands**

See Donation List with  
Bulletin

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### **THIS WEEK AT CROSS Sunday, August 23**

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 24**

Office Closed

### **Tuesday, August 25**

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

6:00pm

PPC Meeting

### **Wednesday, August 26**

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

### **Thursday, August 27**

1:00-2:00pm

Worship at the Shores

2:00-5:00pm

Pastor Scott office drop-in

### **Friday, August 28**

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

### **Saturday, August 29**

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

### **Sunday, August 30**

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

**Cross Lutheran Church**, 1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota, 55109  
www.crosslutheranchurch.org office@crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329  
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