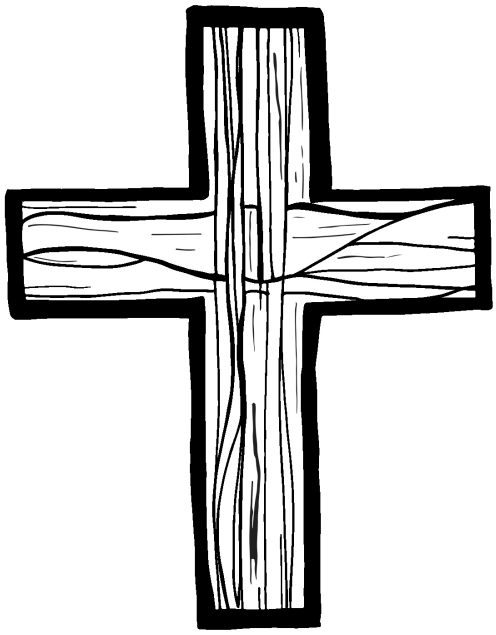


FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ✢ AUGUST 30, 2026

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:
8/30 Dave Olson
9/6 Duane Gudknecht

Assisting Minister:
8/30 Paul Schafer
9/6 Katie Erickson

Psalm:
8/30 Duane Gudknecht
9/6 Katie Erickson

Ushers:
8/30 Dan and Katie Erickson
9/6 Carolyn Border and Nic Villodres

Coffee:
9/6 No Volunteers

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 **Light of a Clear Blue Morning** **Dolly Parton**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** **Son of God, Eternal Savior** ELW655

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.

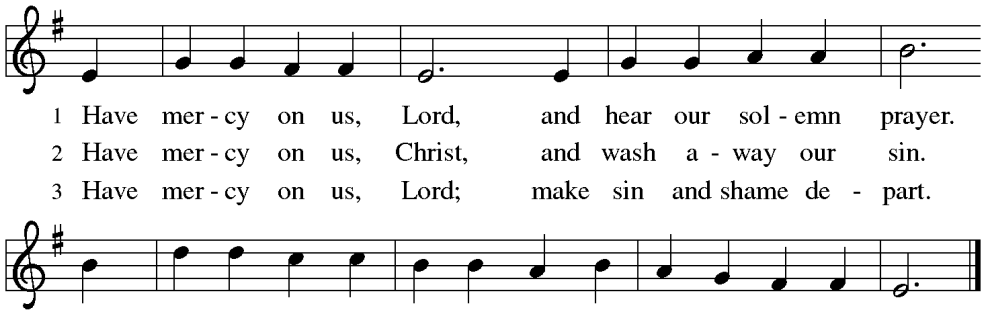
Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us 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.**

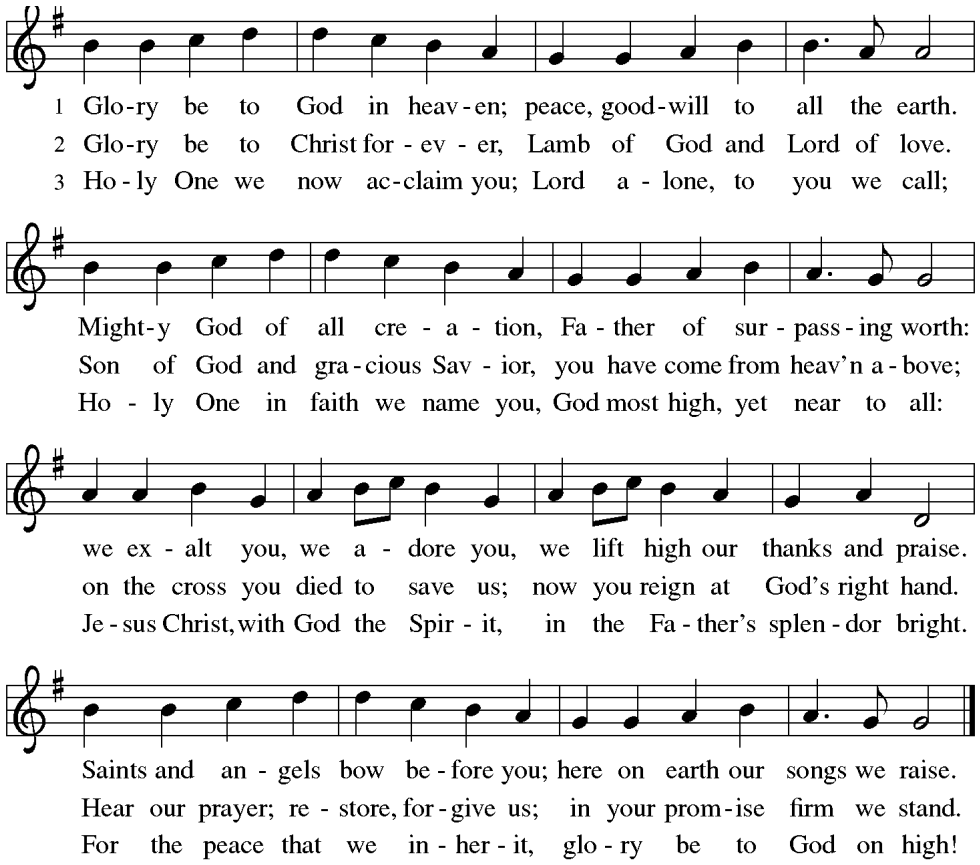
***GREETING**

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** p.203



***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** p. 204



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, **we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, 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.*

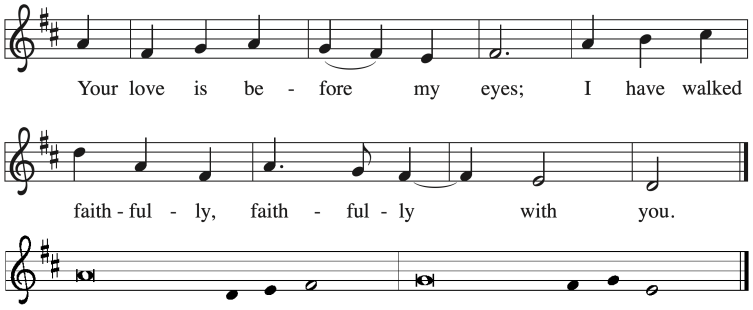
WORD

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

FIRST LESSON **Jeremiah 15:15-21**

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words
became to me a joy and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.
Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,says the LORD.
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 26:1-8



Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.
Test me, O | LORD, and try me;
examine my heart | and my mind.
For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.
I have not sat | with the worthless,
nor do I consort with | the deceitful. R

I have hated the company of | evildoers;
I will not sit down | with the wicked.
I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession | round your altar,
singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.
LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell
and the place where your glo- | ry abides. R

SECOND LESSON **Romans 12:9-21**

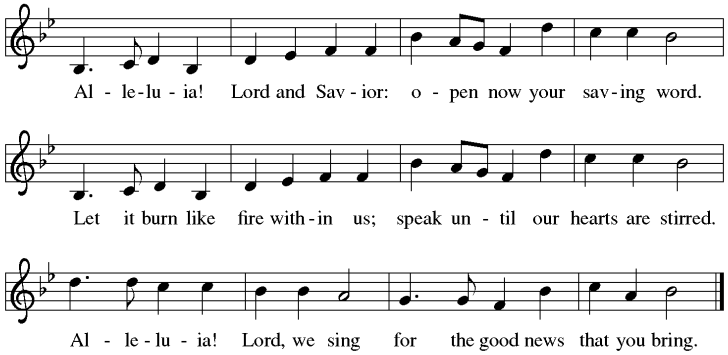
Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. [16] Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

***ALLELUIA** p.205



***GOSPEL** **Matthew 16:21-28**

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

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

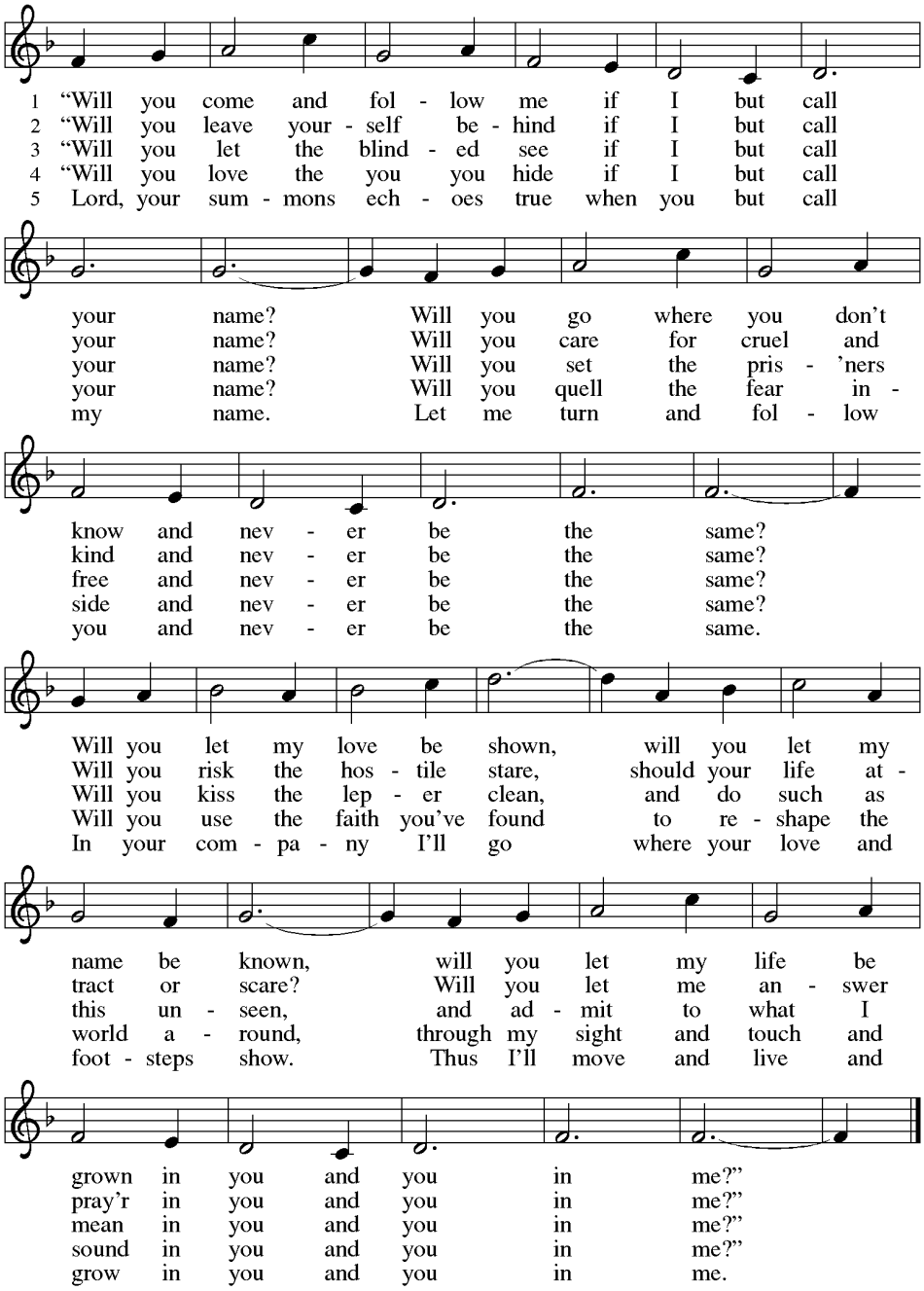
After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** **Will You Come and Follow Me** ELW798



***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**

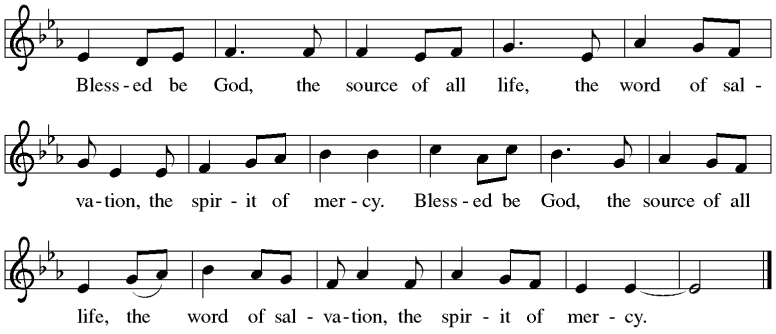
Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY **Take My Life and Let It Be** **Camil Van Hulse**

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

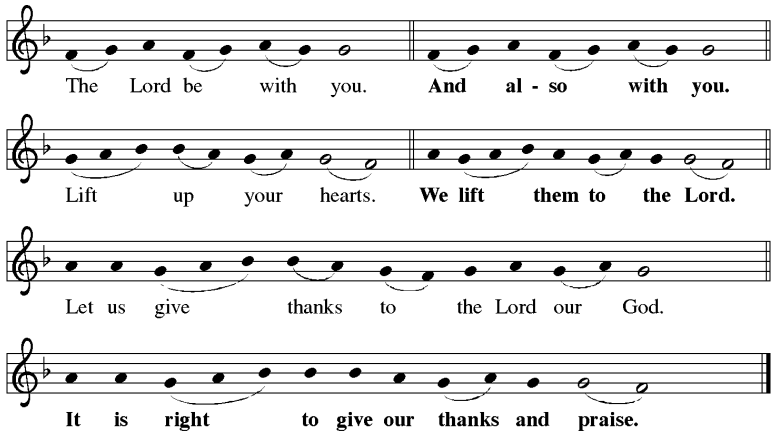


***OFFERING PRAYER**

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** p.206



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.

OFFERING

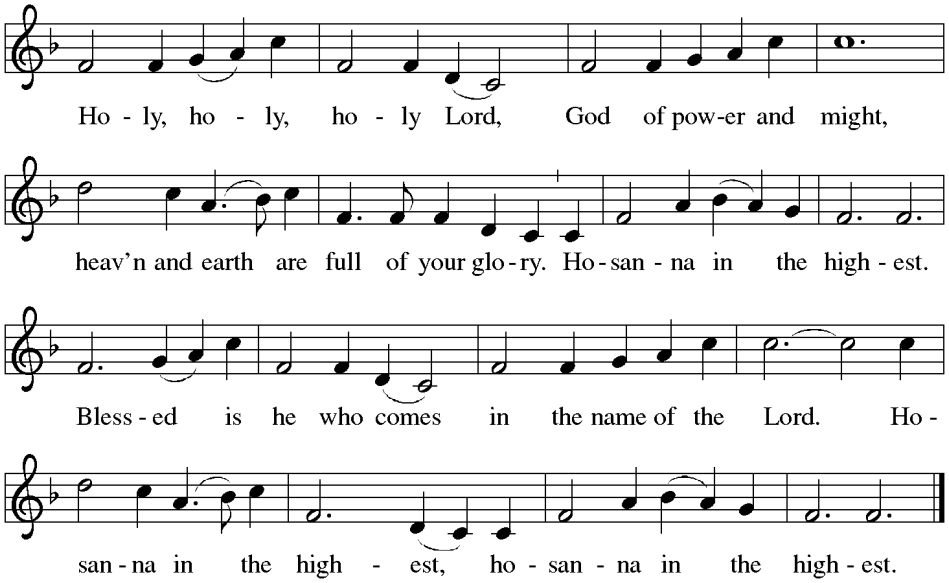
We bring our offerings to God with grateful hearts, in confidence they will be used to support the work of the church both here and throughout the world.

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*

***PREFACE**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** p.207



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

***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.

All are invited to proclaim the words of institution along with the presiding pastor.

***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 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.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD p.208

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.

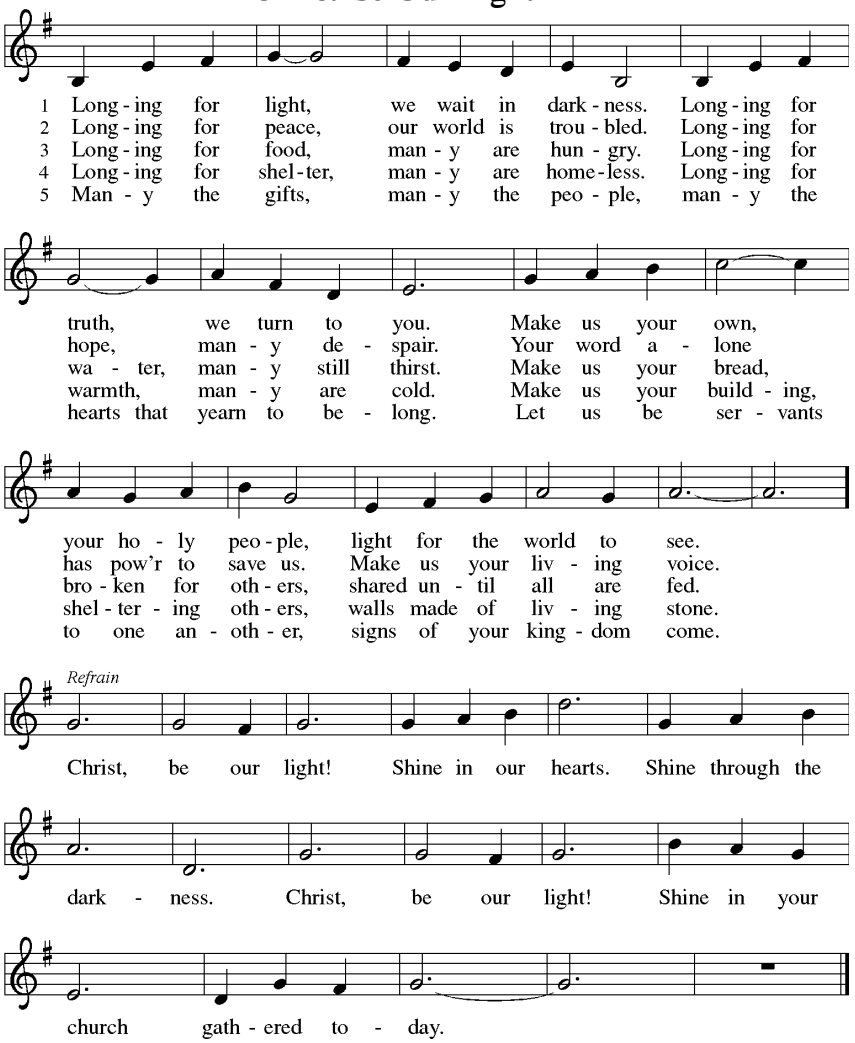
Individual sealed communion sets are also available at the sanctuary entrance.

***ANOINTING** After communing, you may receive prayer and anointing with oil in the narthex.*

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

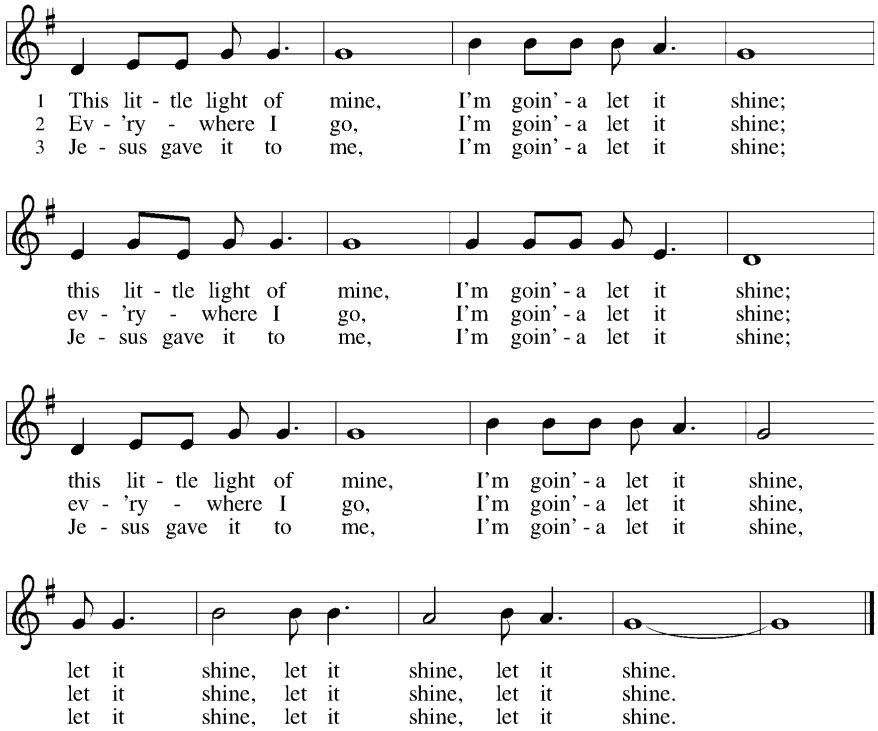
Christ Be Our Light

ELW715



This Little Light of Mine

ELW677



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

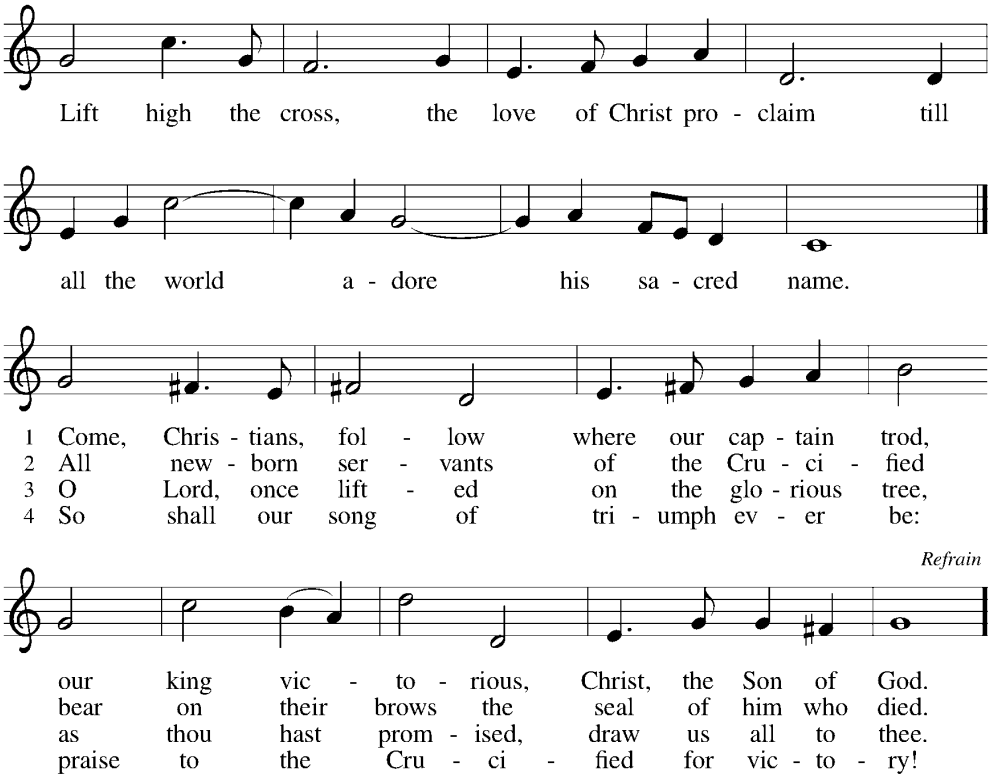
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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

***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 **Lift High the Cross** ELW660



***DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE **The Summons** **Scottish Traditional, adapt. John L. Bell arr. Mark Hayes**

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

ADULT EDUCATION is taking a break. Be back in October. Watch for more information

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LAY MINISTRY MEETING - Tuesday, September 1st at 6pm

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY is on a temporary hiatus. Stay tuned for updates.

BELL CHOIR—Next bell choir rehearsal will be Thursday, September 17th from 5-6 pm. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.

CROSS CHOIR—Next Cross Choir rehearsal will be Thursday, September 17th from 6-7 pm. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

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.

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

Thank You

A great big word of thanks to all who helped make Thursday's Community Market GREAT. We had a tremendous turnout with empty tables at the end. This cannot happen without all of our amazing volunteers.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

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

Monday, August 31
Office Closed

Tuesday, September 1
1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
6:00pm
BLM Meeting

Wednesday, September 2
1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, September 3
1:00-2:00pm
Worship at the Shores
2:00-5:00pm
Pastor Scott **office drop-in**

Friday, September 4
1:00 - 6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm – 10:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, September 5
9:00am – 1:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia
1:30pm – 4:30pm
Cross Organ Practice
5:00 – 7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, September 6
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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Reverend Scott Simmons, pastor pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org 612-859-1134
Jamie Gudknecht, administrative assistant office@crosslutheranchurch.org
Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org
Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org

ELCA