



TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



OCTOBER 11, 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:

10/11 Carolyn Border

10/18 Duane Gudknecht

Assisting Minister:

10/11 Phyllis Moser

10/18 Carolyn Border

Psalm:

10/11 Duane Gudknecht

10/18 Alternative

Ushers:

10/11 Marilee and Dave

Pfefferle

10/18 Sharon Crist and

Phyllis Moser

Coffee:

No Volunteers

Altar Guild:

Kay Stack and Carolyn

Border

Counters:

Kay Stack and Sharon

Crist

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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

**William Bradbur
Sensen**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

ACS977



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

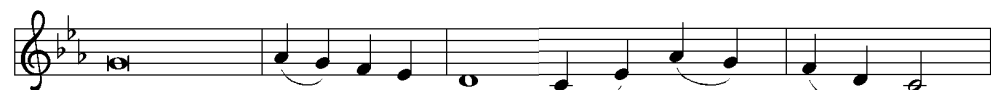
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. Amen.

*GREETING

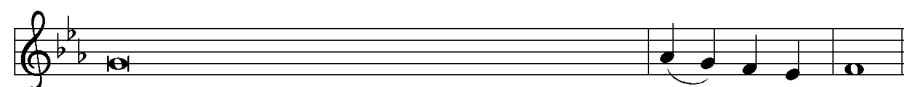
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*KYRIE

p.203



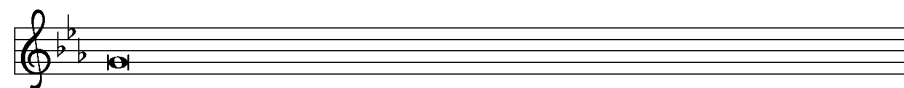
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



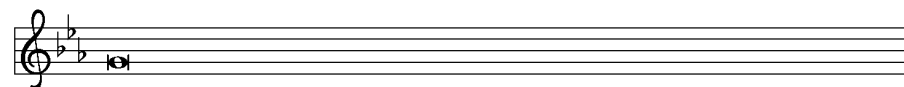
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

regrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

regrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, 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.

Let us share with each other a sign of peace.

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON

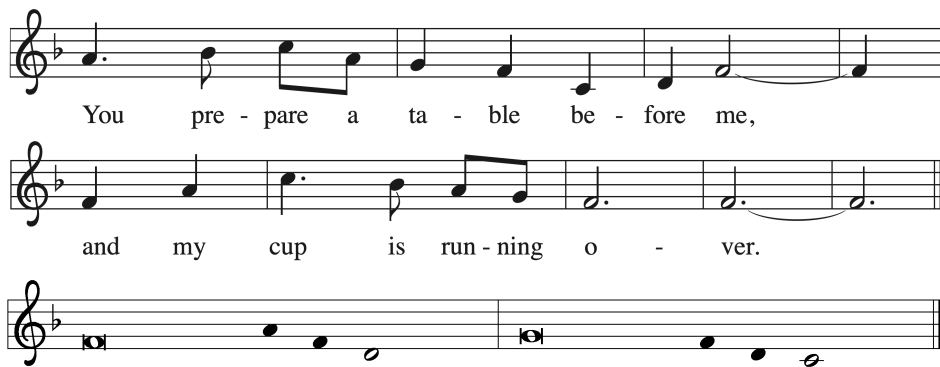
Isaiah 25:1-9

O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;

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

the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
 it will never be rebuilt.
 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
 cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
 For you have been a refuge to the poor,
 a refuge to the needy in their distress,
 a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
 When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
 the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
 you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
 the song of the ruthless was stilled.
 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
 a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
 of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
 And he will destroy on this mountain
 the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
 the covering that is spread over all nations;
 he will swallow up death forever.
 Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
 and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
 for the LORD has spoken.
 It will be said on that day,
 "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
 This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
 let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."
 The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23



The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;
 I shall not ¹ be in want.
The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.
 You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
 and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall ¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me. R
 You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever. R

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

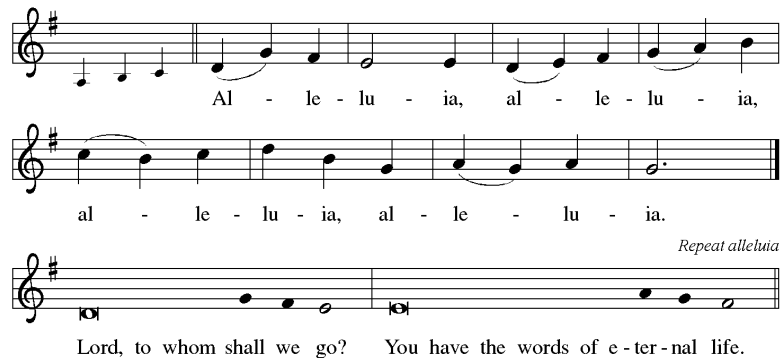
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

*ALLELUIA

p.205



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

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

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Now We Join in Celebration

ELW462



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

*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

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple

(Prayer of St. Francis)

text: Unknown, *La Clochette*, published by *La Ligue de la Sainte-Messe*, 1912

CROSS CHOIR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for:
Marv, Nancy, Ray and
Clara, Sheree, Lisa, Marya,
Marie, Janice, Bob and
Pru, Niki, Gabby, Creed
and baby Ryker, Brady,
Judy, Dottie, BettyLu,
Bruce, Laura, Kelly, Trudy
and Murlyn, Pastor Brian,
Nick, Joshua, Rose, Dean
and Shirley, MaryJo, Lew,
Barb, Lindsay, Molly, Bob,
Raphael, Maja, Kenny and
family, Niki, 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 table

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

ELW184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*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

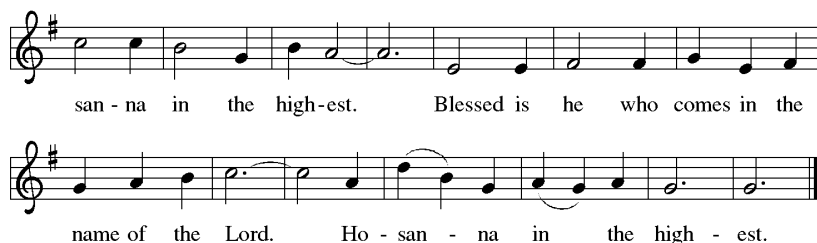
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

p.207

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-



*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.

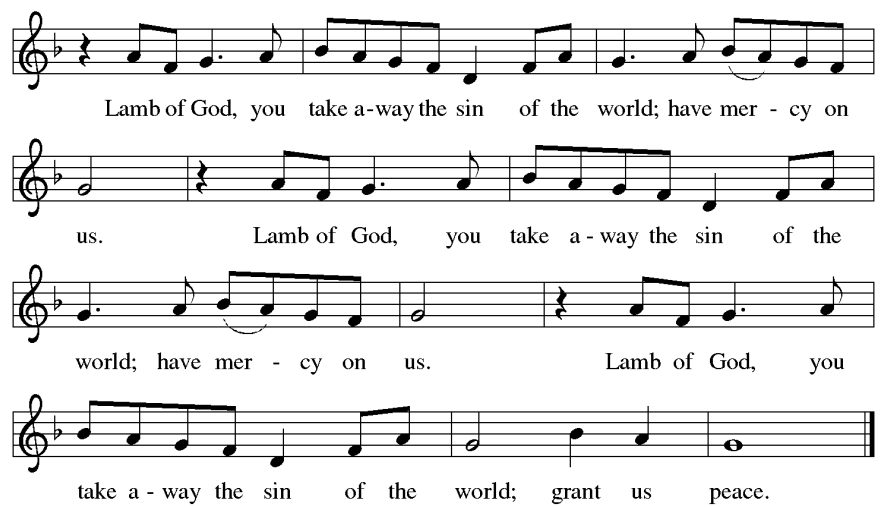
ANOIDNTING After communing, you may receive prayer and anointing with oil in the narthex

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

p.208



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.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

ELW502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.	Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.	Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.	In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me, thy rod and staff my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.	And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

ELW552 As We Gather at Your Table

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word. help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.	Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.	Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.
---	---	--

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.

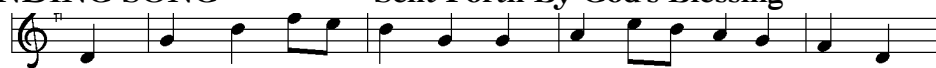
*BLESSING

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.**

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.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Allegro moderato [FUGHETTA]

Gottlieb Muffat

All copyrighted hymns
 and liturgical elements
 used by permission
 by Augsburg Fortress
 license #SB166863 and/or
 One License A-739520.

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

You are invited to join us in the sanctuary at 11 am this morning for the **Baptism of Dylan Sundsmo** (great-grandson of Sharon Olson), as we proclaim the everlasting promise of Christ through the water and the word and welcome this dear child into the world-wide community of faith.

Adult Ed Next Sunday, October 18: The Future of Community Responders in Maplewood. This week, we learned that the City of Maplewood is cancelling the Appropriate Response Initiative (Community Response Team) at the end of the month, two months before the original contract ends. As a congregation which has partnered with the Community Responders, how might we support and advocate for the program in the days and weeks ahead? Join Pastor Scott and, possibly, a few special guests, to discuss. 11 am, Community Room.

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

BELL CHOIR—Next bell choir rehearsal will be Thursday, October 15th from 5-6pm. There will be no rehearsal on October 22nd. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.

CROSS CHOIR—Next Cross Choir rehearsal will be Thursday, October 15th from 6-7pm. There will be no rehearsal on October 22nd. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.



**BAKE SALE
AND LUNCH**

POSTPONED: FUTURE DATE
TO BE ANNOUNCED

United Sisters Fundraiser

POSTPONED

The United Sisters Bake Sale and lunch is postponed until sometime in November. With only two weeks to go and our new sign not yet functional, we are waiting until we are able to promote it more fully to the neighborhood. So keep your recipes warm and look for updates.



Fall Launching Pad Items

Sweatpants	Ongoing:
Sizes: Kids L, XL	Kleenex, Black
Adults: S - XXL	ExpoMarkers,
Fem. Hygiene Products	Coats
Pads	
Bar Soap	

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



THIS WEEK AT CROSS Sunday, October 11

9:30am
Sunday Worship
10:30am
Coffee Fellowship
11:00am
Dylan Sundsmo baptism
1:00-5:00
Promesa De Dios
5:00 – 9:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

Monday, October 12 Office Closed

Tuesday, October 13
1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, October 14
1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, October 15
1:00-2:00pm
Worship at the Shores
2:00-5:00pm
Pastor Scott office drop-in

Friday, October 16
1:00 - 6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm – 10:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, October 17
9:00am – 1:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia
1:30pm – 4:30pm
Cross Organ Practice
5:00 – 7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, October 18
9:30am
Sunday Worship
10:30am
Coffee and fellowship
11:00am
Adult Ed: Future of
Community Responders
1:00-5:00pm
Promesa De Dios
5:00 – 9:00pm
Ebenezer Elim