

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

✢

NOVEMBER 15, 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:
11/15 Dave Olson
11/22 Duane Gudknecht

Assisting Minister:
11/15 Sherry Batterman
11/22 Paul Schafer

Psalm:
11/15 Alternative
11/22 Peter Brown

Ushers:
11/15 Sharon Crist and Phyllis Moser
11/22 Dan and Katie Erickson

Coffee:
No Volunteers

Altar Guild:
Sharon Crist and Jamie Gudknecht

Counters:
Sherry Batterman and Diana Border

If you are interested in serving coffee following worship, please sign-up on the bulletin board
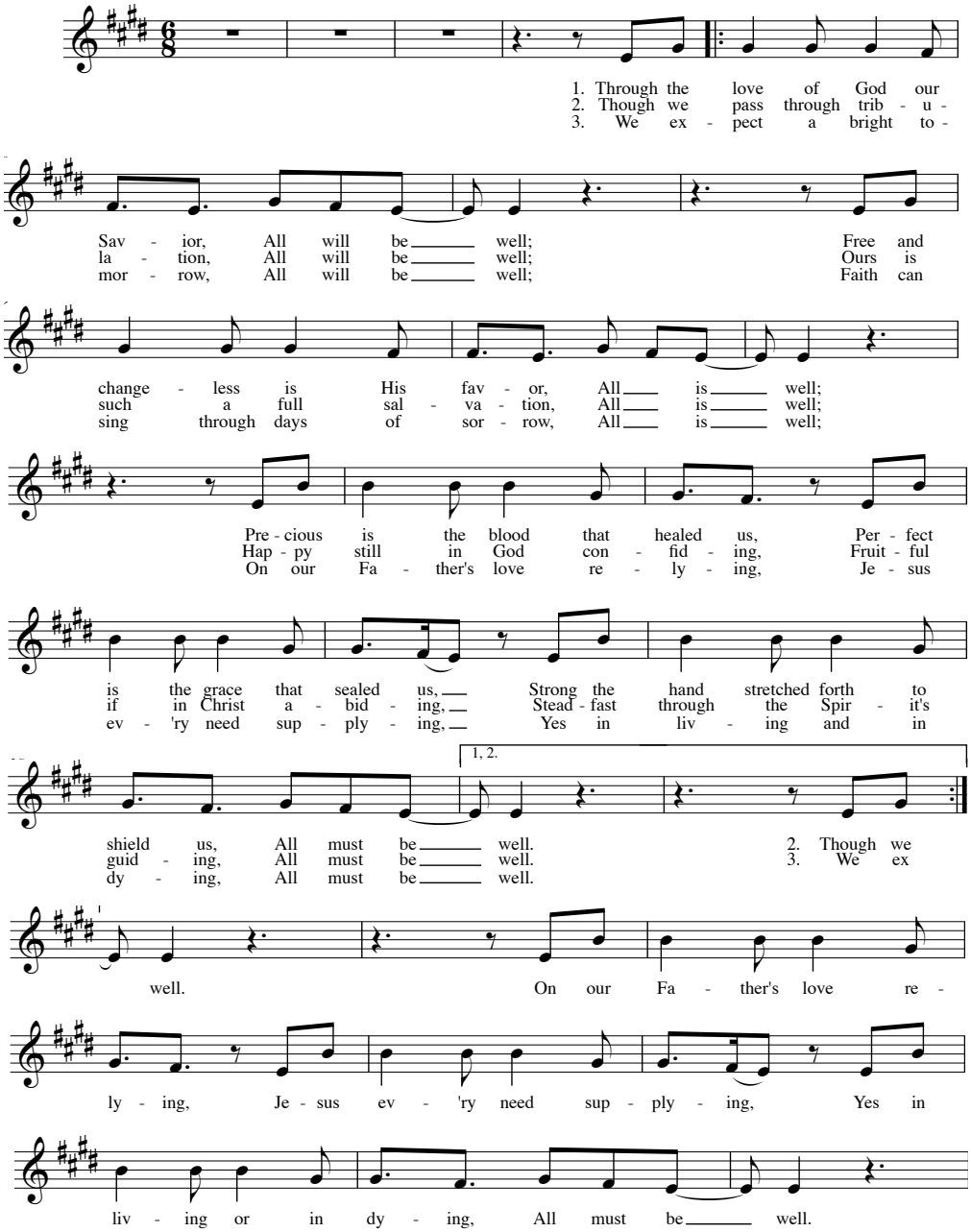
If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday Worship, *sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the narthex, or contact the office.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

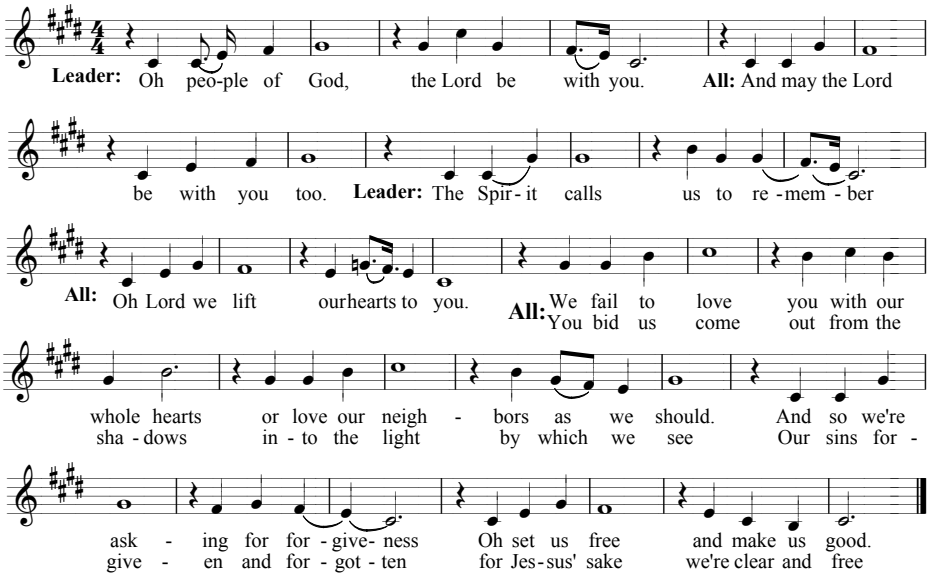
PRELUDE **Simple Gifts** **19th century Shaker Melody**
arr. Joseph M. Martin

***GATHERING HYMN** **All Must Be Well** **Indelible Grace**



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

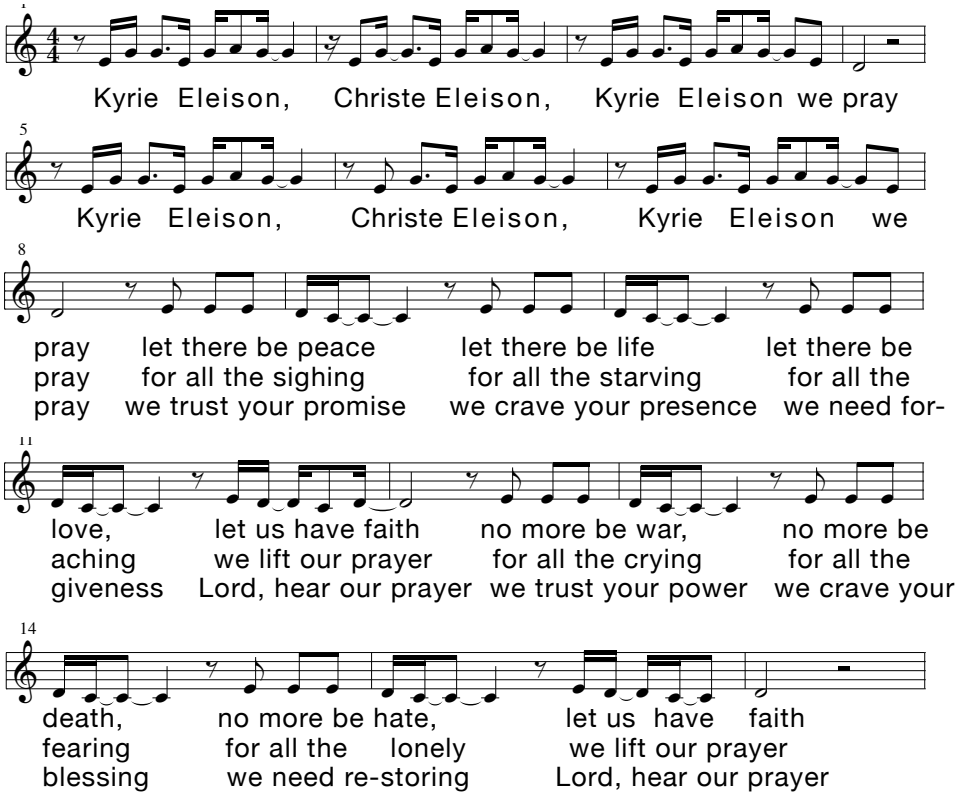
*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



*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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, **raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

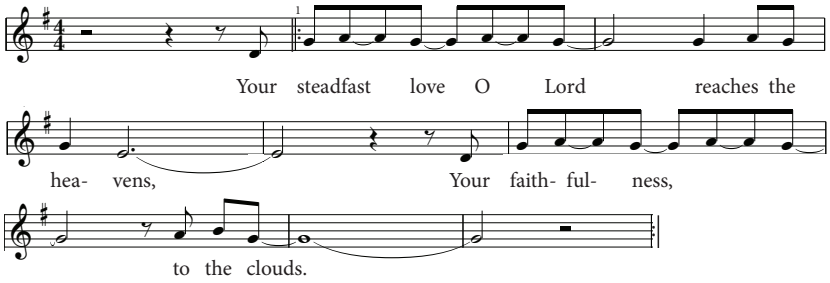
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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

FIRST LESSON **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

Be silent before the Lord GOD,
or the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 90:1-8, 12



Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are like
yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;
you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light
of your countenance.
So teach us to number our days

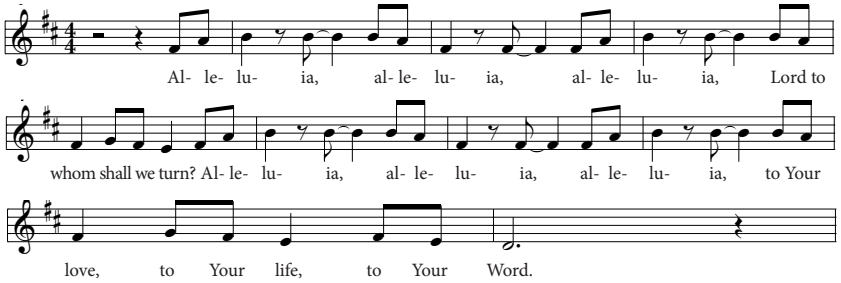
SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ..

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

***ACCLAMATION Alleluia** Simmons



***GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.
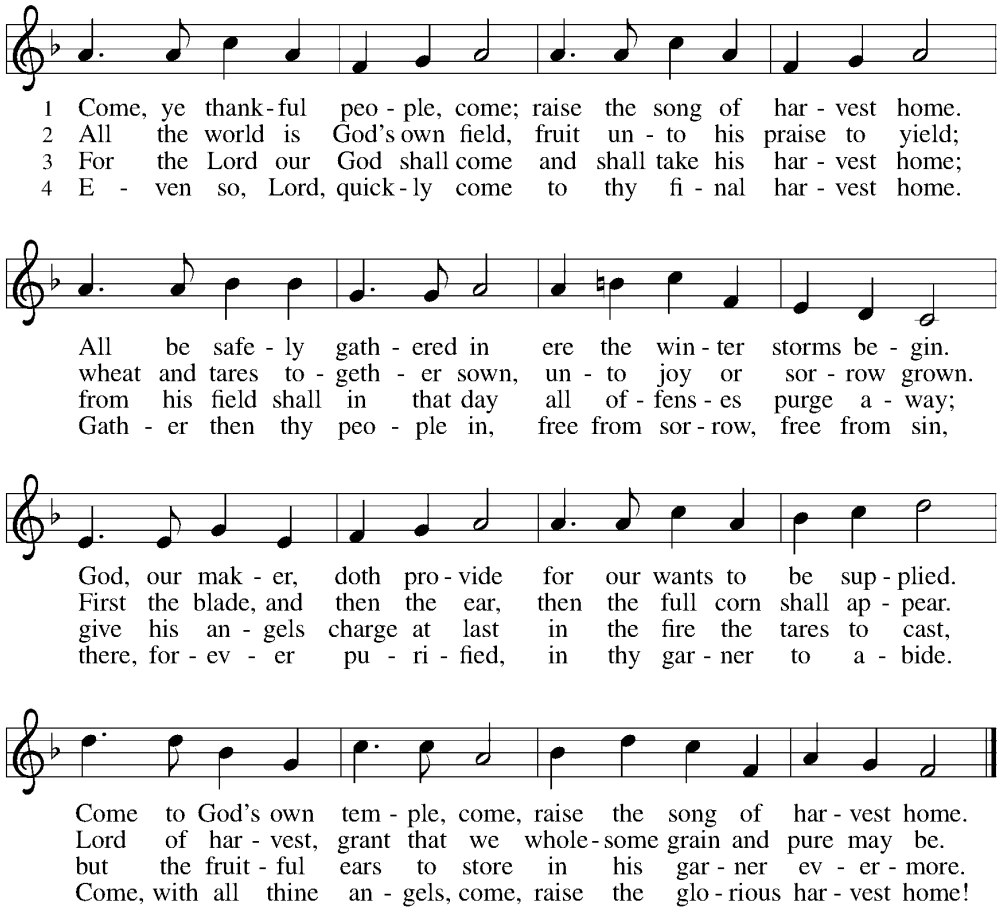
After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ".

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

SERMON

***SONG OF THE DAY** **Come, Ye Thankful People Come** ELW693



PLEDGE SUNDAY

During the Song of the Day, you are invited to bring your 2027 statement of giving intent to the chancel and place it there.
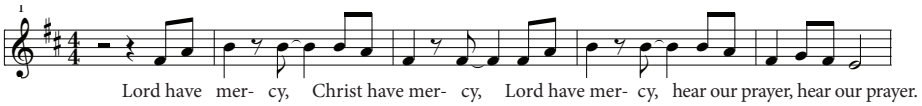
These giving statements reflect our commitment in the work of God's kingdom through this congregation.

Those unable to do so, or who choose not to, may place their card in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after worship

***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 **As the Deer** **Martin Nystrom**
arr. Carol Tornquist

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.**

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, Barb, Lindsay, Molly, Bob, Raphael, Niki, Jodi, Phyllis, Luther, Ostby Family, Tim, Allison, Rick Novak family and Barb Brynildson family.

We offer continued prayers for family and friends of Mary Vatne and Bob Brynildson

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

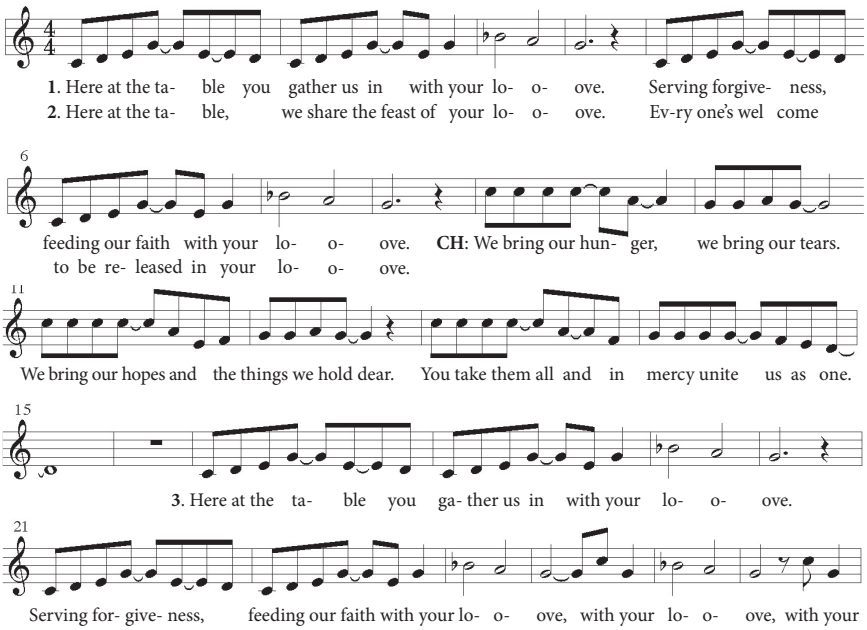
OFFERING

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING **Here at the Table** **Simmons**



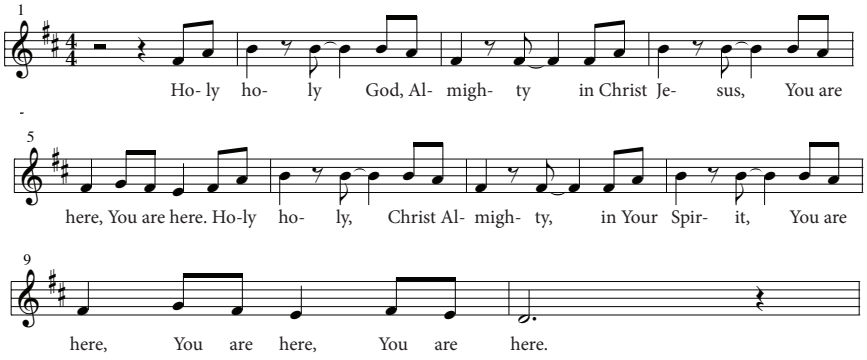
DIALOGUE

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**

*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.*

***HOLY HOLY** Simmons



***PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE**

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

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.

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

***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.

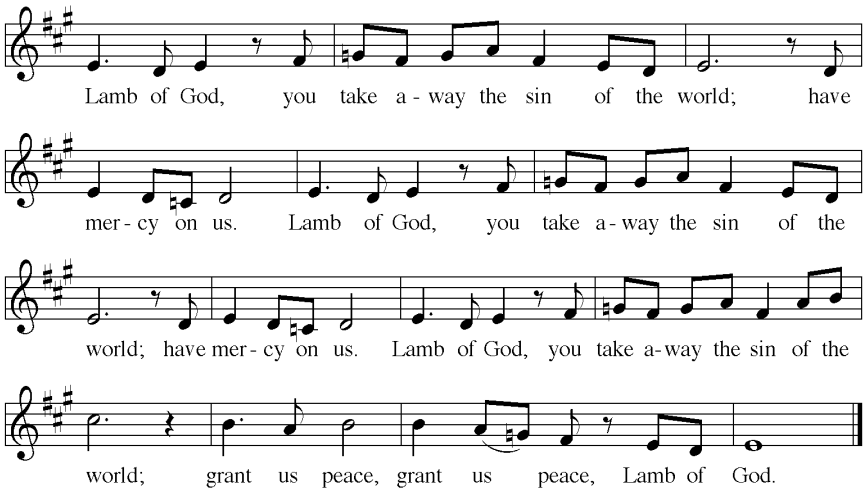
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you,
holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
in your church, without end. **Amen**.

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*

LAMB OF GOD



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.

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

Communion hymns:

ELW485—I Am the Bread of Life

"I am the Bread of life,
You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
unless the Father beckons."

"And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up onthe last day."

"The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever,
you shall live forever." *Refrain*

"Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*

"I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die,
you shall live forever." *Refrain*

Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who have come into the world. *Refrain*

ELW770—Give Me Jesus

In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest,
give me Jesus.
Dark midnight was my cry…

Just about the break of day…

Oh, when I come to die…

And when I want to sing…

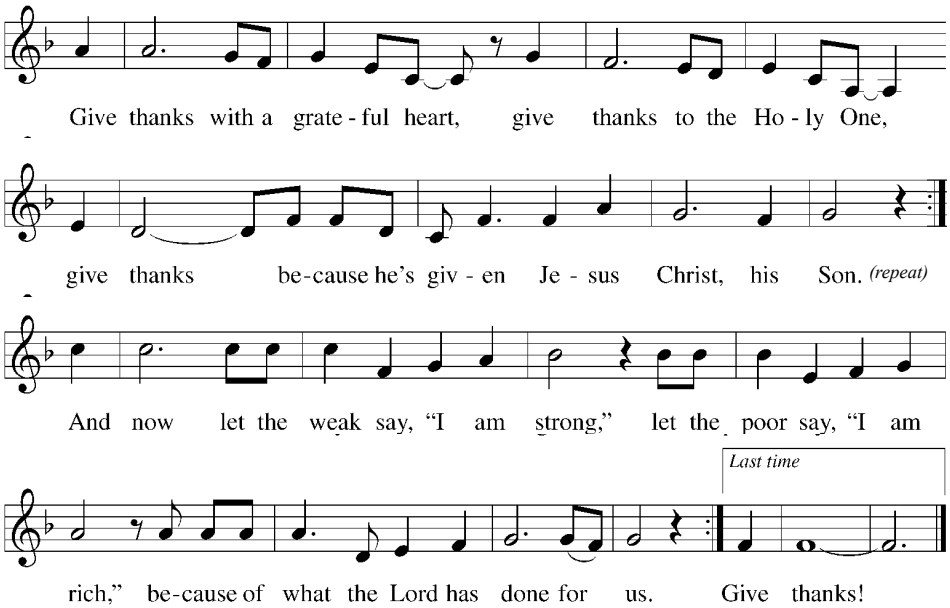
DISTRIBUTION

*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**
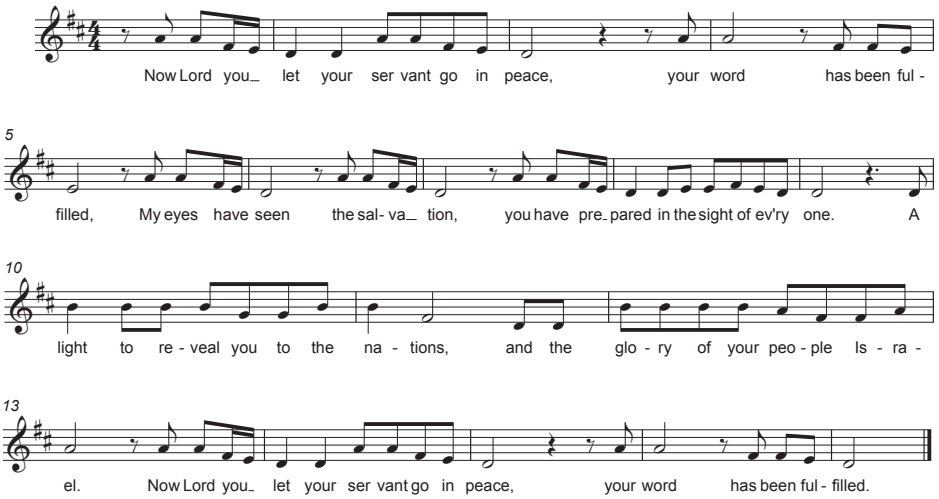


SENDING

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

*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

***SENDING SONG** **Canticle for Departure** Rundman



*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 **Promised Land** **Traditional American**
arr. Joseph M. Martin

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Advent Begins Sunday, November 29th.

Advent Midweek services begin December 2nd.

Mark Your Calendars.

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

ADULT EDUCATION returns TODAY!

FLESHPOTS OF EGYPT - Monday, November 16th, 6:30pm

COMMUNITY MARKET - Wednesday, Nov. 18th, 2:30-5:00pm

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY returns on Nov. 19th at 2:30pm

BELL CHOIR—Next bell choir rehearsal will be December 3rd from 5-6pm. There will be no rehearsal on November 19th or 26th. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.

CROSS CHOIR—Next Choir rehearsal will be December 3rd from 6-7pm. There will be no rehearsal on November 19th or 26th. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

COMMUNITY MARKET
THIS WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 18TH



THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, November 15
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, November 16
Office Closed
6:30pm
Fleshpots of Egypt

Tuesday, November 17
1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, November 18
1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
2:30-5:00pm
Community Market
7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

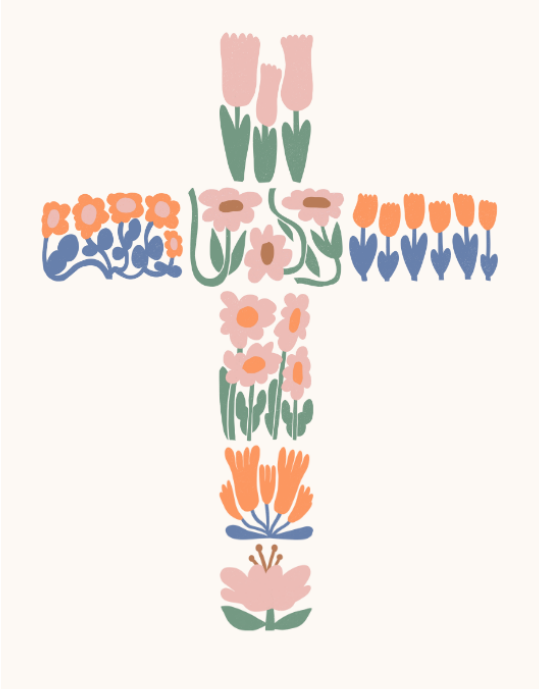
Thursday, November 19
1:00-2:00pm
Worship at the Shores
2:00-5:00pm
Pastor Scott **office drop-in**
2:30-3:30pm
Bible Study

Friday, November 20
1:00 - 6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm – 10:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, November 21
9:00am – 1:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia
1:30pm – 4:30pm
Cross Organ Practice
5:00 – 7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, November 22
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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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



PLEDGE SUNDAY
TODAY





TOMORROW!!!

Please help us DECORATE the church on Friday, November 27th at 9:00am.
Many hands make light work.
Thank you!



We're teaming up with Thrivent for Giving Tuesday December 1st!

Thrivent believes money is a tool, not a goal. That's why they're committing $3 million to support organizations like ours through their Giving Tuesday initiative. When you donate on December 1st through Thrivent's giving platform, they'll boost your gift so it can do even more for our outreach ministries! They have a $3 million shared pool that they will use to match all donations on a $1 for $1 ratio. ALL DONATIONS made to CROSS LUTHERAN on December 1st will be matched when made on the Thrivent giving platform.

Please go to thrivent.com/give and scroll down to the Search Online Catalog box. Click on the box and search for Cross Lutheran Church, Maplewood, MN. You can give directly on that page with the DONATE box on the right or click on Cross Lutheran and donate on our page.

The Board of Stewardship will make prayerful decisions on any funds donated and matched through the Thrivent giving platform on December 1st. This opportunity is open to anyone who wants to donate to Cross Lutheran so please share this information with your family and friends!

To qualify for the matching funds, donations must be made on the Thrivent giving platform **on Giving Tuesday December 1st** - So mark your calendars to donate to our ministries!