The Feast of the Holy Cross September 14, 2025

Service Music: Setting 8
Proper 18 / Lectionary 23, Year C



This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

WELCOME!

Guests, we are glad you have joined us today! If you would like to receive contact from the pastor or welcoming committee following this worship service, please fill out a card from the pew slot and put it in the offering plate.

Children's Church takes place during our worship service. The children are dismissed after *Blessing the Children* and brought back to their families after the *Prayers of Intercession*.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands at the invitation of the presider.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

You may find a simple prayer helpful, such as: "Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." or "Lord, you see all things. I open my heart to you."

P: Merciful God,

C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of

→ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 807 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing



GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

This is the Feast

Congregational Refrain



Leader:

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

Congregational Refrain

Leader:

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Congregational Refrain

The assembly is seated.

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Children are dismissed for Children's Church.

WORD

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A: Word of God. Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 98:1-4 (read responsively)

- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
- ² O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
- all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
 - ⁴ Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

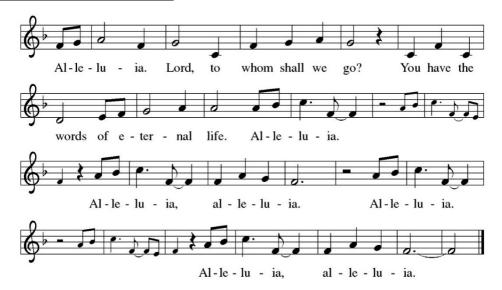
- ¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- ¹⁹ For it is written,
 - "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
- ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles,
- ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the

power of God and the wisdom of God.

A: Word of God. Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly rises in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to St. John 3:13-17

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or spirit to sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 335 Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross



APOSTLES' CREED

A: In prayer and devotion, we confess our faith with the whole church.

C: 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.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Greet one another by shaking hands with a word of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey and protect us from division and doubt. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we

look to the cross and live.

God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. We pray for the people of **Sudan** who are facing a hunger crisis due to famine. Make peace in places of conflict, especially **Ukraine**, **Iran**, **and the Holy Land** and bring mercy to each community. May they seek the way of the cross and live.

God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving, especially Amanda, Barry, Bert, Bev, Carol, Donna, Drew, Ed, Emmett, Frieda, Hattie, Jason, Jenn, Joseph, Karen & Ed, Konnor, LaVonne, Lynn, Maggie, Mark, Michelle, Phil, Ruthann, Sandy, Sherry, Stan, Tami, Ted, and Wally. Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live.

God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: For the families of the victims of gun violence last week, we pray. Comfort those who mourn during these immense tragedies. Save us from the banner of violence that hangs over our young ones. Give us and those in authority the will to do whatever it takes to affect change for our children. Bring the solution to this plight in all its various forms closer to us today.

God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live.

God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the safety of first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others, especially **Anthony**, **Eli**, **Nathan**, **and Tyler**.

God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died, especially **Cyprian**, **Hildegard**, **Dag**, **and Nelson** whom we will *commemorate this week. Giving thanks for them, we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection.

God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

A: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **C: Amen.**

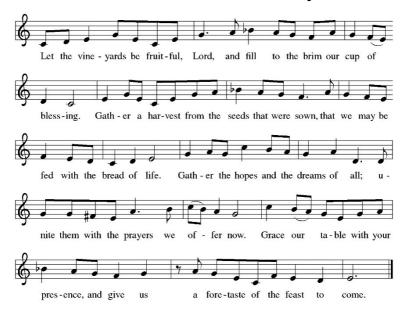
MEAL

OFFERING your offering may be placed in the plate as it is passed. We thank all who support God's ministry here and in the world.

Stand as the offering is presented at the rail.

^{*}See announcement for commemorations.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: ELW 182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



OFFERING PRAYER

A: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

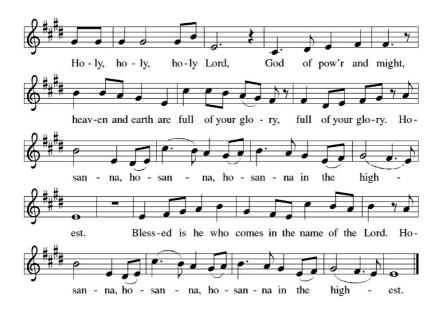
P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ: our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body

and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he wept over the city, he endured the cross. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

P: Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **C: Amen.**

P: Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. C: Amen.

P: Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

C: Amen.

P: O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

P: O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

P: O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

P: O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

P: O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

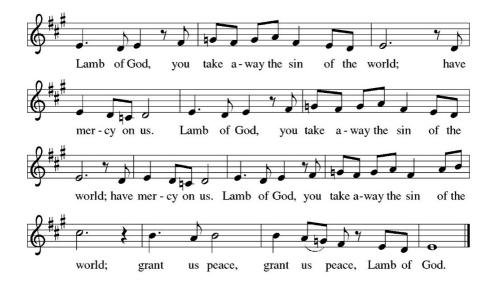
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy. All are welcome. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is seated.

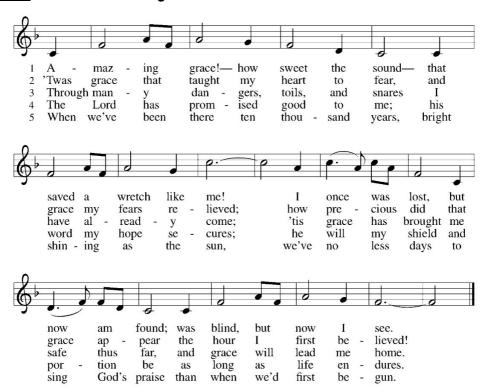
Come, for Christ invites you. Communion today will be distributed at the altar rail (please stand or kneel, as you are comfortable), the ushers will direct you forward to receive the bread (which is gluten-free) and cup either wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Lamb of God

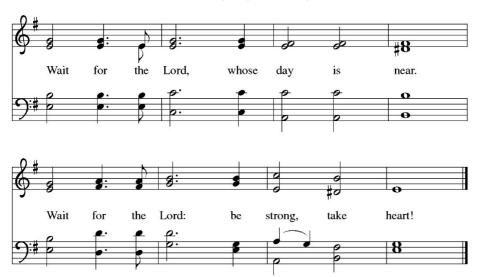


COMMUNION HYMNS

HYMN ELW 779 Amazing Grace



HYMN ELW 262 Wait for the Lord(sing 3 times)



The assembly rises in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **C: Amen**

SENDING

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

SENDING BLESSING

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,

→ bless you now and forever. C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 545 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION

P: Siblings in Christ, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ in gratitude to God and service to others, all the days of your life?

C: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last week:

Saturday 30

Sunday 67 YouTube 4

Birthdays this week:

9/14 Mark Gwin 9/15 Bailey Schmidt 9/16 Kaylee Pessein 9/17

Pat Larson 9/18 Velvet Collison 9/18 Caroline Hicks

Anniversaries this week:

9/14 Kane & Jenna Schmidt

The flowers today are given by Pat Larson.

<u>Today!</u>—10AM Coffee and Conversation—This is a time where we ponder questions about current events and cultural trends in light of our Christian faith. This is an intentional time for conversation and prayer facilitated by Bryce. No sign-up required. All are welcome.

<u>9/21</u> – **QC Marathon**. Please make sure to use an alternate route. We suggest people use Middle Road and come South on 18th St. to get to the church.

9/28—Live Nativity meeting after the Sunday service at 10AM.

<u>9/28</u>—1:00PM Frieda Houldsworth's 100th Birthday Party! Contact Judie Brooks at 563-340-2962 or Janene Anderson at 563-370-8710 if you would like more information or would like to help with planning! A sign-up sheet for appetizers and treats is located in the Narthex.

<u>Altar Guild</u>—The Altar Guild is looking for more members to join their team! If you're interested in joining the Altar Guild, contact the church office at (563)355-4161; <u>stjamesbett@gmail.com</u>.

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

Youtube Link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjngGF4g_QWtn_I2SqpL5Q

COMMEMORATIONS

Holy Cross Day Sunday, September 14, 2025

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258 Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179 Wednesday, September 17, 2025

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961 Thursday, September 18, 2025

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as Markings, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF) Saturday, September 20, 2025

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

Worship Assistants

September 14

9:00 AM Worship

Presider Bryce Hewlett, SAM **Assisting Minister** Caroline Hicks

Reader Diana Worley

Acolytes Jude & Dex Hewlett

Music Minister: Steve Abel

Ushers Fritz V. & Judy L. YouTube Assistant **Deb Crooks**

Altar Guild Pat Larson & Mary M.

Counters Mary Meumann

September 21

Organist

Presider Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Assisting Minister Shirley Richlen Reader Mary Meumann Acolyte Edi Southwell

Ushers Pat Larson & Caroline Hicks

Maddy Beck

9:00 AM Worship

YouTube Assistant **Deb Crooks**

Altar Guild Ellen H. & Mary M. Counters Mary Meumann

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, Lynn Chamberlain, Bev Chappen, Sherry Germanio, Sandy Henry, Frieda Houldsworth, Bert Leder, LaVonne Mienke, Mark Peters

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), Barry (cousin of Ellen Hogbin),
Carol (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Donna (Ed Arp's sister),
Drew (Pat Larson's friend), Emmett (friend of Diana Worley),
Hattie (Frieda's sister), Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son), Jenn (family of Bryce/Kim & Gary/Eunice), Joseph (friend of Bryce & Kim), Karen and Ed (Shirley's Aunt and Uncle),

Konnor (Bert Leder's grandson), Mark (friend of Jason Forari), Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), Ruthann (Justina's mom), Stan (relative of Frtiz Voss), Tami (family of Maggie Bayliss), Ted (Ellen Hogbin's father-in-law), Wally (Frieda's nephew)

Those Whose Duty it is to Protect Others

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)
Tyler, First Responder (Family of Pat Larson)

If you have anyone who needs to be taken off or added, please notify the church office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9AM Worship 10AM Coffee & Conversation		1PM Sarah Circle	9:30AM Finance Mtg. 6PM-8PM Confirmation Class 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 11:30 GANG 2PM Bingo @ BHCC		5PM Saturday Service
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9AM Worship 10AM Friendly Visitor's Mtg.	5:30PM Meal at Zion Lutheran	12-4PM Quilting	6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC		5PM Saturday Service
28	29	30	10/1	10/2	10/3	10/4
9AM Worship 10AM Live Nativity Mtg. 1PM Frieda's 100th Bday Party!			6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry		No Saturday Service
9AM Worship	10/6	10/7 6PM Chrisian Ed Mtg	10/8 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry	10/10	10/11 5PM Saturday Service