

Holy Cross Day

September 14, 2025; 9 a.m.



St John's
Lutheran Church

(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

(Acolytes light the candles)

Linda Ranney

Greeting and Call to Worship *(please stand and face procession)*

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

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Come, let us worship God, the Creator of all things, who calls us to dwell in peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

We gather in gratitude for God's creation, longing for justice and peace to abide in the land.

Come, let us follow the Lord Jesus Christ, who reconciles all things and leads us in the way of righteousness, so that the wilderness may become a fruitful field and the fruitful field be deemed a forest.

We come to walk in the footsteps of Christ, seeking healing for creation and peace for all people.

Come, let us move with the Holy Spirit, the breath of life, who is poured out upon us, bringing renewal to the earth and restoring the harmony of Creation.

We praise God, who revives the land and calls us to be peacemakers with all of Creation.

May our prayers rise like incense, and our worship be a song of love for all Creation.

We thank the Lord for giving life to all Creation! We thank God for our neighbor's life, human and non-human alike. Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW #660; *Lift High the Cross*

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
 our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
 as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
 praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Apostolic 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



Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

Canticle of Praise

(Assembly sings refrains, Choir sings vs. 1-3)



- 1 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer. *Refrain*
- 3 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. Amen, Amen! *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.**

Reading: Psalm 98:1-4 *(please sit, read responsively)*

¹Sing 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.**

³You 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.**

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time: 5th Grade Bibles

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

Choir:

Assembly:



Gospel: John 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd Chapter.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *(please sit)*

"Joyful Noise in the Cosmos" -- Pastor Christine Emerson

Hymn of the Day *(please stand)*

ELW #684; *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace* vs. 1, 3, 4

- 1 Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.

- 3 Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.
- 4 Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one fam'ly with a billion names;
let ev'ry life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.

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

Petition: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

Offering

(Ushers take up the collection)

Cross of Sorrow, Cross of Love arr. Elaine Schram

St. John's Choir

Offertory *(please stand)*

(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)

O God, You Saw My Early Being vs. 3-4

- 3 O Christ, I starve in sin; come, feed me
that food by which you freed me—
very body given when you died,
very blood poured out, O Crucified;
meal of thanks for great and least:
you seat me at your feast!
- 4 O Spirit, holy Comfort, guide me;
your Word, a cleft to hide me—
still, small voice, you keep me through each storm,
breathing life into my earthen form;
with your love my life infuse
to serve now, where you choose.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, **O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

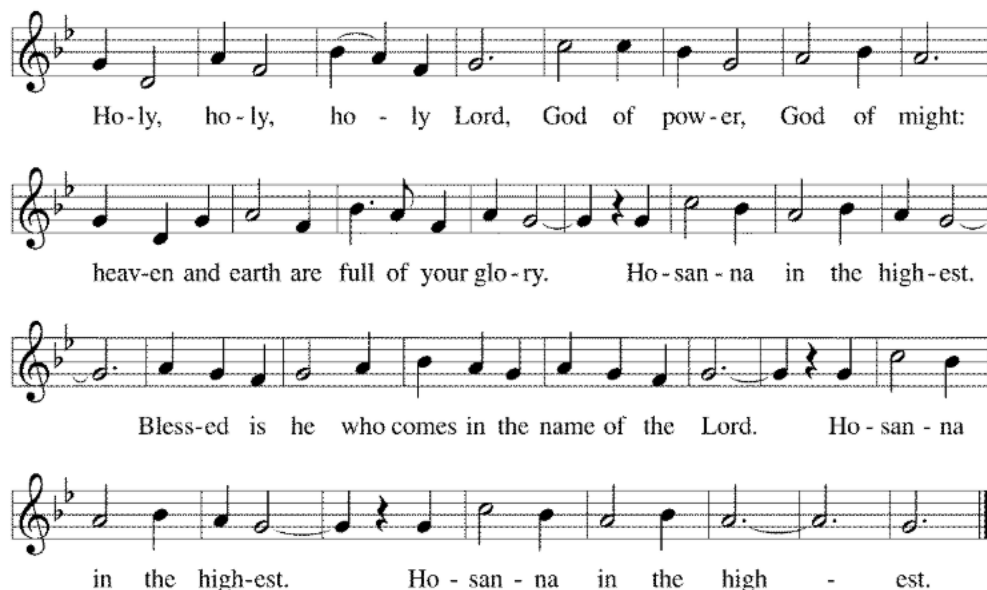
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own; that also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive

us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

(acolytes prepare for communion distribution; ushers come forward to invite assembly by pew)

Lamb of God

Cantor:

1. Je-sus, Lamb of
2. Je-sus, Bread of
3. Je-sus, Prince of

All:

God,
Life, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
Peace,

Last time
Cantor:

mer-cy on us. Je-sus, Lamb of God; you

All:

take a-way the sins of the world: grant us your peace.

Communion Hymn *(Assembly sings refrains)*

ELW #493; *Taste and See*

Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times.
Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord;
for God has been so good to me. *Refrain*
- 2 Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord, who answered me;
from all my troubles I was set free. *Refrain*
- 3 Worship the Lord, all you people.
You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
in God we need put all our trust. *Refrain*

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. 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. Amen.**

Benediction

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.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

(Acolytes extinguish the candles)

ELW #855; *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, vs. 1, 3, 5

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,
 the Lamb upon his throne;
 hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
 all music but its own.
 Awake, my soul, and sing
 of him who died for thee,
 and hail him as thy matchless king
 through all eternity.

- 3 Crown him the Lord of love--
 behold his hands and side,
 rich wounds, yet visible above,
 in beauty glorified.
 No angels in the sky
 can fully bear that sight,
 but downward bend their burning eyes
 at mysteries so bright.

- 5 Crown him the Lord of years,
 the potentate of time,
 creator of the rolling spheres,
 ineffably sublime.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!
 For thou hast died for me;
 thy praise and glory shall not fail
 throughout eternity.

Sending

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Linda Ranney

Altar Flowers

In Honor of our daughter Erica's baptism anniversary on September 16th, by her parents Barret & Julie Neuhaus

Chancel Flowers

In Memory & Honor of Ruth L. Kruschke's 98th Birthday by Her Family

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Kathy Freitag
Lector	Jim Boulter
Acolytes	Jack Schank, Liam Schank
Ushers	Norb Kirk, Greg Johnson
Greeters	Mike Torud, Bryan Sedlander
Communion Servers	Judy Staszczuk, Mark Sontag, Anna Mayer
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Brett Issacson
Musicians	Linda Ranney, piano/organ; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir

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