

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 21, 2026

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

Weekly Update



1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org

Sunday, June 21, 2026

VISITORS: It is a joy to have you with us this morning. If you are looking for a church family, we hope you will consider Holy Cross. For more information, you can fill out a visitor form in the narthex, speak to an usher, or scan the QR code to the right.



FAMILIES: Children are always welcome at our worship services! There's also a small play area in the Narthex where you can hear the broadcasted service.

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, email Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org
Names are removed after one month unless advised otherwise.

OUR CONGREGATION

Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler | Joy Caveney
Joel Flegal | Roy Geiger | Otto Jacobson | Reed Morgan
Mike Muller | Craig Reichow | Tuula Toney | Cherie Weatherhead

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow
Friends of Thomas Newcomb currently serving in Iran

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Von Bergstrom (cousin of Jill Reichow)
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Karen Davidson (grandmother-in-law of Jared Lem)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
Uwe Gutschmidt (nephew of Ellen Atwell)
Jeff Harwood (friend of Craig Reichow)
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)
Michael Levrini (friend of Jared Lem)
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)
Sue Mason (sister of Pam Darby)
Sharon Massen & Dorie Miller (friends of Craig Reichow)
Brian McCagh (cousin of Helen Wolfe)
Lisa Nolf (friend of Jared Lem)
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)
Tracy Radican (daughter of former HCLC pastor, Pastor Harper)
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark & Jo Roe)
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)
Joseph Strada (father of daughter-in-law of Sam & Sharon Carter)
Nancy and Steven Swancutt (sister and brother of Lynn Russo)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Supply Pastor:	Rev. Pam Mitcham
Director of Music and Liturgy:	Jeremy Shoop
Sound Technician:	Bob Thompson
Video Technician:	Sylvia Moran

Serving June 21st: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Assisting Minister:	Kathy Makowski
Reader:	Jared Lem
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	TBD

Serving June 28th: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Assisting Minister:	Anne Geiger
Reader:	Nannette Lem
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	Jared Lem

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: JUNE 21 – 28

SU 21	10:00 am	Worship – 4 th Sunday after Pentecost
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 23	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 24	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	7:00 pm	ELL Summer Classes ~ Education Wing
SA 27	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	12:00 pm	Herndon Pride ~ Arts Herndon
SU 28	10:00 am	Worship – 5 th Sunday after Pentecost
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	Outreach Meeting ~ FH
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

FLOWERS: Today's flowers are given by:
Lauren Gist—Happy Father's Day to her husband, Devin!
Sylvia Moran—Happy Father's Day in loving memory of Gene Bain from his family

HERNDON PRIDE
Arts Herdon
 (750 Center St.)
June 27, 12:00 - 5:00 PM

HOLY CROSS
 LUTHERAN CHURCH

**LUNCH FOR THE SOUL
 WEDNESDAY, JULY 1ST**

We need your help to serve our neighbors in need through this caring ministry! Holy Cross provides lunch on the first Wednesday of every month, and your support in cooking, serving, or cleanup is always welcome. Our next opportunity to serve is on Wednesday, July 1. Please consider joining us! Sign up at: perfectpotluck.com/YEEI1717



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 FOR JULY 4 BLOCK PARTY**

We need **your** help to put on our annual July 4 block party! Hundreds of our neighbors come to our property to watch the town fireworks. It is a great opportunity to show them how wonderful HCLC is. They are already here! All we have to do is welcome them, hand out treats, and play some games as we wait for the firework show. Scan the QR code and sign up for a job. Our goal is to get 14 volunteers to help host that evening. Speak with Beverly (FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org) or Jeremy (MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org) for more information.



**STEPHEN MINISTRY INSTALLATION
 SUNDAY, JULY 12TH**

Join us on Sunday, July 12, as Pastor Eric installs three new Stephen Ministers. After completing 50 hours of training this year, Jo Roe, Beverly Siecker, and Diana Virgo will be commissioned for their ministry of Christian care and support. Please take a moment to congratulate and welcome them as they begin serving in this important role.

QUILT BLESSING - TODAY



The quilts blessed in worship today were made by our Quilting Group, which meets every 3rd Saturday at 10:00 am. These beautiful quilts are sent all over the world to those in need through Lutheran World Relief.

THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out for the yard cleanup on June 13! We are grateful to Joe and Kathy Makowski, Brian, Jared Lem, and Mike and Virginia Muller, for giving their time and energy to help care for our church grounds.

Together, we cleaned up the flower bed around the front entrance sign, the east side of the sanctuary between the fence and the education wing, and the north side of the administrative wing near the parking lot. Although the sun was strong and the weather quite hot, everyone's spirit and willingness to help were outstanding.

The grounds are looking wonderful thanks to your hard work! We would still love additional help with the back inside corner of the property, which offers a great opportunity for fresh ideas and improvements to make better use of that space.

VBS- SAVE THE DATE

Kids: Snowball Mountain Challenge

**Adults: Grace Unfolded
 Led by Pastor Eric**

**VBS
 SAVE THE DATE:
 AUGUST 9-13
 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.



We welcome you, and you are safe with us...
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;
 Whatever your relationship status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;
 Whatever your socio-economic status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

What to Expect in Worship

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Pastor will give instructions on how we celebrate communion at that part of the service. Written instructions are also included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026 | 10:00 AM

The stereotypical idea that religious people enjoy the good life is challenged by all three readings this Sunday. Hearing hard words about the difficult life of discipleship, we gladly go the table for our sustenance. This week also encompasses the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere, which Christians can see as a sign that darkness and death await us all.



WE GATHER



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God.

Pastor: Compassionate God,
 Assembly: **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Pastor: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Isaac Watts, author of many popular Lutheran hymns, wrote the text to today's gathering hymn. In his text he reminds Christians that God's grace is never ending and as a disciple of Christ we are to go out into the community and praise God's name. Stanza two of this hymn reflects on Paul's letter to the Romans where we are told about Christ's sacrifice of life to save God's people.

GATHERING HYMN

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

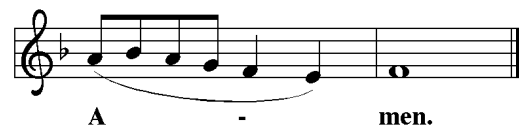
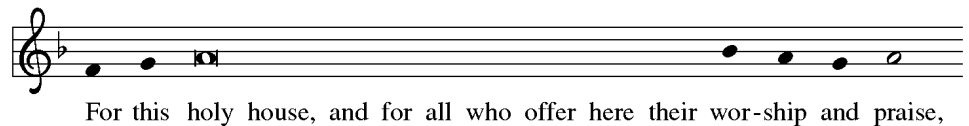
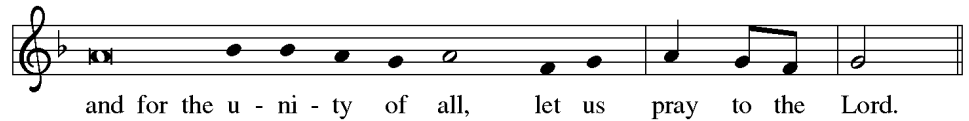
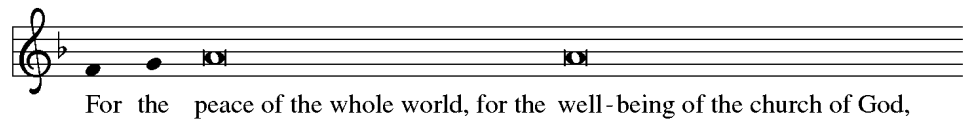
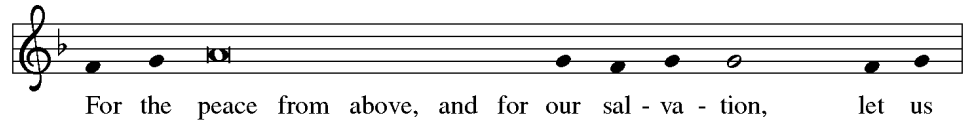
GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

(ELW Setting 2)



HYMN OF PRAISE

(ELW Setting 2)



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

The prayer of the day, framed for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, is based on the famous prayer of Ignatius of Loyola, the sixteenth-century founder of the Jesuits. We ask God to enable us to live as disciples, no matter the hardships and losses we encounter.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Assembly: Amen.

Please sit.



LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:7-13
Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

Reader: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah:

⁷ O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him

Jesus and the early Christian community were not the first to suffer for speaking the word of the Lord: the first reading recalls a time centuries before in Jewish history when the faithful prophet suffered for his proclamation.

or speak any more in his name,”
 then within me there is something like a burning fire
 shut up in my bones;
 I am weary with holding it in,
 and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:
 “Terror is all around!
 Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”
 All my close friends
 are watching for me to stumble.
 “Perhaps he can be enticed,
 and we can prevail against him
 and take our revenge on him.”

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
 therefore my persecutors will stumble,
 and they will not prevail.
 They will be greatly shamed,
 for they will not succeed.
 Their eternal dishonor
 will never be forgotten.

¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;
 you see the heart and the mind;
 let me see your retribution upon them,
 for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the Lord;
 praise the Lord!
 For he has delivered the life of the needy
 from the hands of evildoers.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 6:1b-11

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection.
 We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed
 from sin.*

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans:

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of

*The lectionary now
 skips part of Romans 5
 that is appointed
 during Lent and
 proceeds with Paul's
 teaching about baptism
 as our connection to
 the death of Christ.
 Daily we return to our
 baptism as the tomb of
 our old life and the*

resurrection of life in Christ.

the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW Setting 2)

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 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 10th chapter.

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be

For Matthew, one’s commitment to follow the Father in heaven replaces stereotypical family values. Christian life is encountered on the cross, which believers in some way share with the crucified one.

uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Our Song Says Peace



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will
 2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will
 3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
 sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
 sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.
 who o - pens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.
 who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: JENKINS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Pastor: Almighty and gracious God, we pray for grateful hearts, for a humble awareness of our abundance amid all the world's poverty and pain.

Assembly: **Lord, send your Spirit.**

Assisting Minister: We pray for the courage to give generously of our resources — our imaginations, our time and abilities, our material wealth.

Assembly: **Lord, send your Spirit.**

Pastor: We pray for confident hope, in the presence of such overwhelming needs, to know that each offering of money, quilts, and kits makes a welcome difference to others, and to you.

Assembly: **Lord, send your Spirit.**

Assisting Minister: We pray that these quilts will support the lives of those in need throughout the world. Bless them and those who will use them in your name.

Assembly: **Lord, send your Spirit.**

Pastor: We pray you would bless those who labor on our behalf through all the work of Lutheran World Relief and its partners, that we would uphold them with our prayers, our encouragement, our gifts, our willingness to learn and to invite the support of others. In the name of our Lord who encouraged us to ask boldly when we pray,

Assembly: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

We pray for the greater church.

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need.

Assisting Minister: Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation.

Assisting Minister: Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We remember the saints.

Assisting Minister: Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Assembly: Amen.

The sharing of The Peace is an ancient ritual that puts us right with our neighbors before we offer our gifts to God.

THE PEACE

Pastor:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

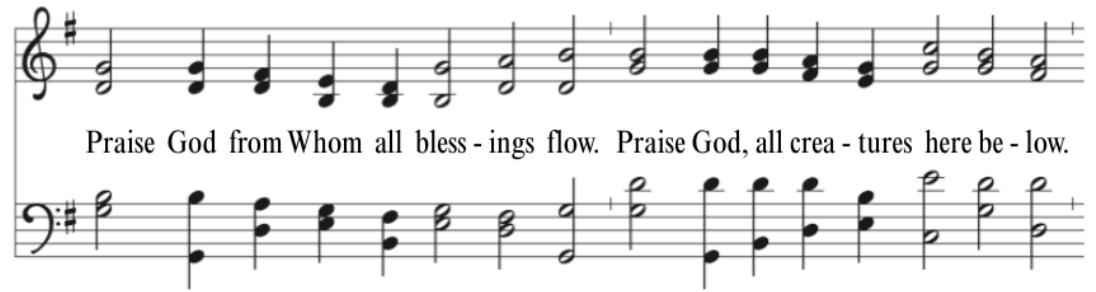
Assembly: And also with you.

Please sit.

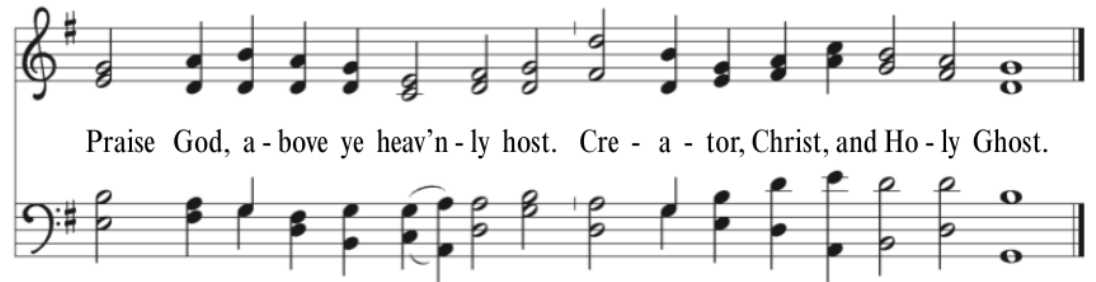
OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY


Praise God from Whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low.



Praise God, a - bove ye heav'n - ly host. Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. 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.

Assembly: **Amen.**



WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

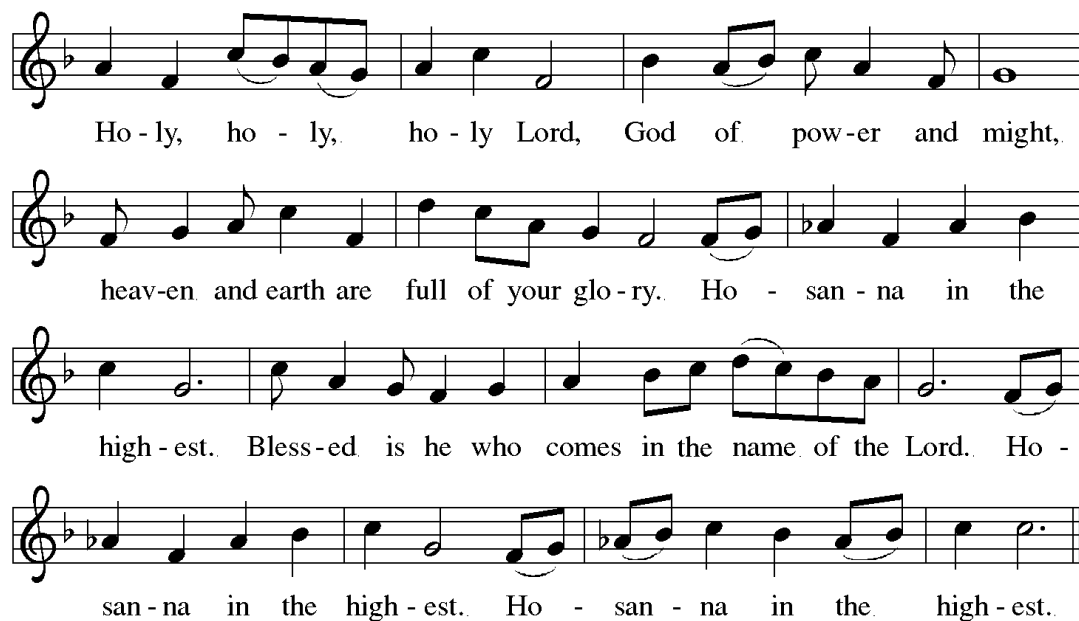
Assembly: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

Pastor: It is our duty and delight.... and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

(Setting 2)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray with confidence the prayer Jesus taught us.

Assembly: **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please sit.

DISTRIBUTION

*This is Christ's table of welcome. Jesus invites **all** who are hungry and thirsty for unconditional love and acceptance to come to God's banquet. The ushers will direct you forward at the appropriate time. Communion will be by station. The pastor will be in the center with the bread. All the bread we use here is gluten free and vegan. On either side will be someone with a tray of red wine and white grape juice. Empty cups can be placed in the basket on either side of the aisle. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms on your chest.*

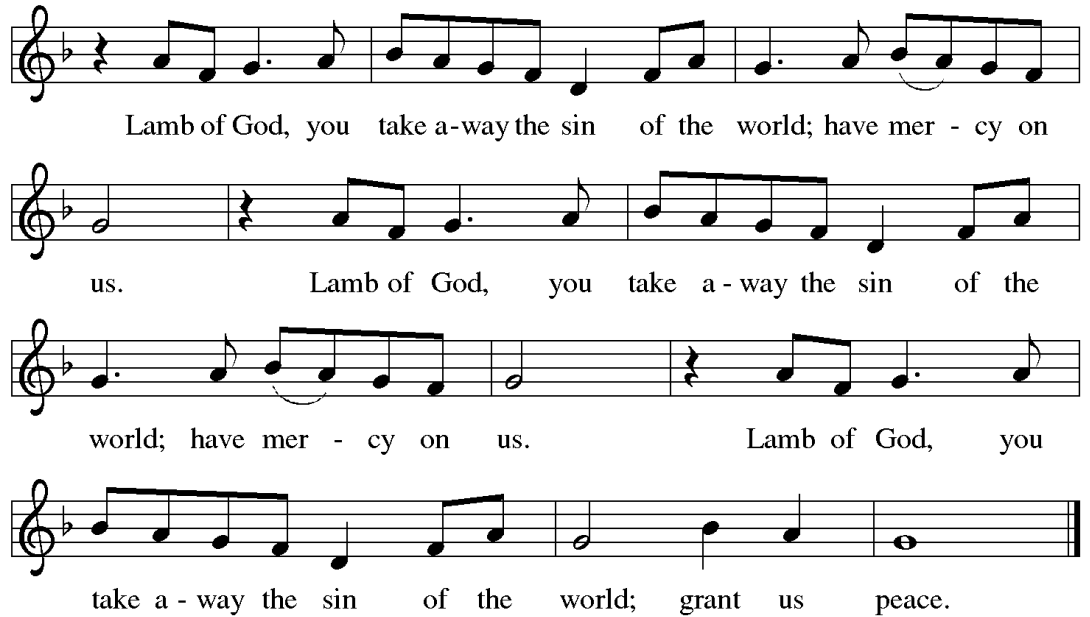
It has become a tradition at Holy Cross to sing "old favorites" during communion in the summer months. During the long season of Pentecost, it is nice to take time and remember our roots by singing hymns that remind us of growing up in the church.

"Children of the Heavenly Father" echoes portions of today's reading from Romans and Matthew's gospel. In those readings we are reminded that, through death, we are tied to everlasting life with Christ. We also hear that God cares so much for us that they even know how many hairs are on our head. Surely, we can confidently say that we are children of the heavenly Father.

Let the Director of Music and Liturgy know if you have a favorite hymn you'd like to make sure we sing.

AGNUS DEI

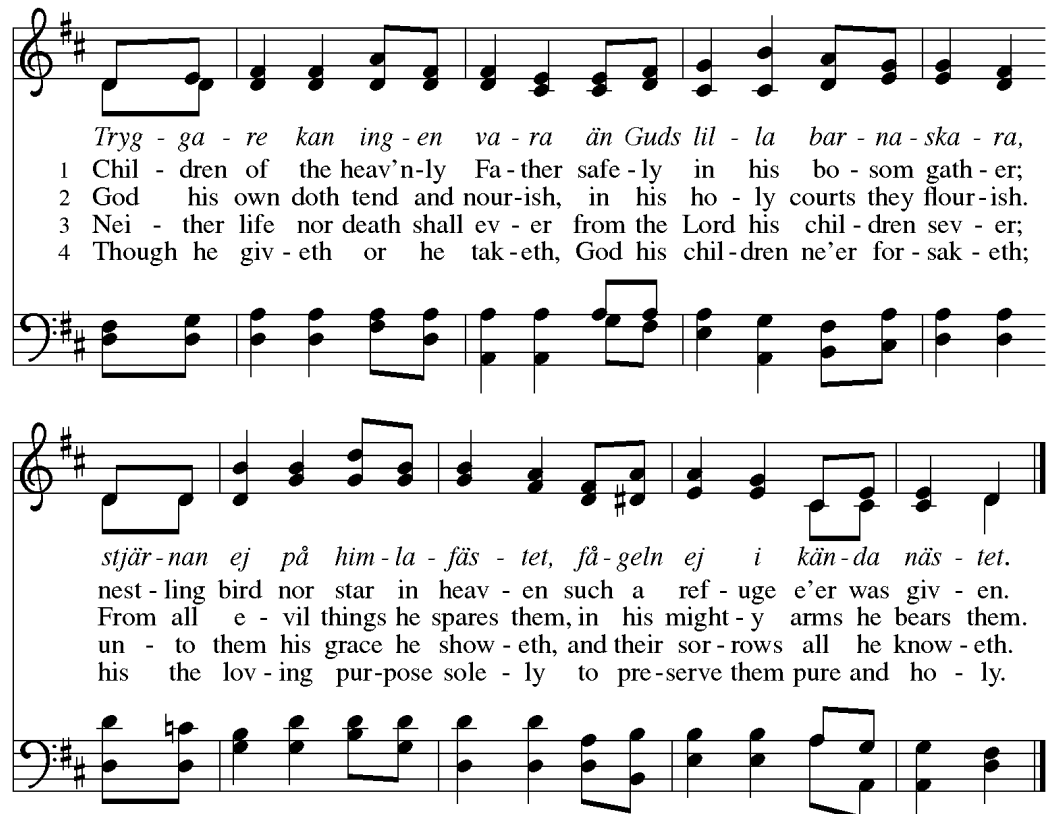
(ELW Setting 2)



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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Children of the Heavenly Father *Tryggare kan ingen vara*



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kån - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847
 Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

**WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

First published in 1787 in a hymnal, "Selection of Hymns," the song was mistakenly credited to the publisher, Dr. John Rippon. The true authorship is still a mystery, as well as the composer of the music. Even though the tune is a sturdy folk tune from the South, by the time of the Civil War, "How Firm a Foundation" was a favorite in both the North and South.

The hymn has impacted some important figures from

SENDING HYMN**How Firm a Foundation**

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

United States history. Because the hymn had been a favorite of his wife, President Andrew Jackson requested it to be sung at his bedside shortly before he died, saying he wanted only to join his wife in heaven. Robert E. Lee requested the song for his funeral "as an expression of his full trust in the ways of the Heavenly Father." Theodore Roosevelt also recognized the importance of this song during a time of great need and had it sung at his funeral. More recently, this hymn was used at the National Day of Prayer service following September 11, 2001.

Today's gospel reminds us that a life of ministry will not always be easy. The assurance and healing we seek in Christ can be found in stanzas two, three, and four. These stanzas are sung from God's point of view. In these stanzas we are reassured that God will always be with us and promises to protect and guide us in our times of trial.



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Assembly: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from applauding during worship and after the postlude.

THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

John the Baptist

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

Thursday, June 25, 2026

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melancthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

Philipp Melancthon, renewer of the church, died 1560

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melancthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melancthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."

ATTRIBUTIONS:

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FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

*[Francis of Assisi,
Francis and Clare: The
Complete Works, ed.
Regis J. Armstrong
OFM CAP and
Ignatius C. Brady
OFM (NY: Paulist,
1982), 38-39.]*

Most high, all-powerful, good Lord,
yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessing.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no one is worthy to mention your name.
Praised be you, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us, and who produces varied fruits with
colorful flowers and herbs.
Praised be you, my Lord, through those who give pardon for your love
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
for by you, Most High, they shall be crowned.
Praised be you, my Lord, through our sister bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Blessed are those whom death will find in your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord,
and give him thanks and serve him with great humility.
—*Francis of Assisi*

*This depiction of a
Swiss sword from the
fifteenth or sixteenth
century may help us to
ask the difficult
question: when is a
sword also Christ's
cross?*



There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

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