

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JANUARY 11, 2026

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Weekly Update

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



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday, January 11, 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

OUR CONGREGATION

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

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Randy and Shirley Beamer (friends of Pam Darby)
Debbie Bowman (niece of Betty Skelton)
Joy Brown (friend of Kate Flegal)
Symphony Calvillo & her two boys (friend of Kate Flegal)
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Jason Greenwalt (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)
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)
Lisa Nolf and Laizu (friends 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 and Jo Roe)
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)
Steven Swancutt (brother of Lynn Russo)
Diana Todd (friend of the Russos)
Pastor Luis Velasquez (Lunch for the Soul)
Michelle White (friend and coworker of Kate Flegal)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)

THOSE IN MOURNING

The McElveen and Flegal families, upon the passing of
Patrick's mother, Gayle McElveen

Nan and Jared Lem's friends, the Tilton's, upon the passing of their
granddaughter.

REJOICING IN BIRTH

Arthur and Scott, upon the birth of their son, Jacob (Cecilia Howard's brother
and brother-in-law)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Supply Pastor:

Rev. Pam Mitcham

Organist:

Suzanne Baggett

Sound Technician:

Bob Thompson

Video Technician:

Sylvia Moran

Serving January 11th: Baptism of Our Lord

Assisting Minister:

Joy Heuer

Reader:

Nannette Lem

Acolyte:

TBD

Greeter:

Cheryl Smith

Serving January 18th: Second Sunday after Epiphany

Assisting Minister:

TBD

Reader:

Helen Wolfe

Acolyte:

Gary Wolfe

Greeter:

Jared Lem

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: JAN 11 – JAN 18

SU 11	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Baptism of Our Lord
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	H.U.G.S. Group ~ Conference Rm
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
M 12	6:30 pm	Theology on Tap
TU 13	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 14	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	6:30 pm	Game Night ~ FH
	7:00 pm	ELL ~ Education Wing
TH 15	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
SA 17	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	10:00 am	Quilting Group ~ Rm 202
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7 th Day Adventist
SU 18	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Second Sunday after Epiphany
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

MARTIN LUTHER KING Day of Service

Monday, January 19, 2026
10:00 AM



MLK DAY OF SERVICE MONDAY, JAN 19 – 10:00 am

As we prepare to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., everyone is invited to participate in an **MLK Day of Service** dedicated to compassion, community, and outreach. We are grateful to once again partner with the **Herndon Woman's Club**, whose commitment to service closely aligns with our own mission. We will support both local and international groups through hand-on projects.

• Towels for Personal Care Kits

Holy Cross is collecting donations of small, lightweight towels for Personal Care Kits to support people in need. Towels should measure between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52" (dark colors preferred). Donations may be placed in the bin in the Narthex, or you may purchase a towel from our Amazon list to be shipped directly to the church: <https://a.co/9LjTMvT>



• Old Crayons and Socks

The Herndon Woman's Club is looking for donations of old crayons and old socks (without holes) as part of the projects they are organizing on our MLK Day of Service. If you have old crayons or those pesky socks without a partner (no anklets please), please bring them to church any Sunday or contact: Helen Wolfe (hkswolfe@gmail.com) or Cheryl Smith (cismith1@verizon.net). Thank you!

• Inova Blood Drive



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Blood Drive

Monday, January 19, 2026

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



1090 Sterling Rd., Herndon, VA
The Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile will be in the parking lot.

In honor of National Blood Donor Month, donors will receive a specialty sweatshirt.



Book your appointment today!

Visit <https://bit.ly/HCLC0119>

Call **1.866.256.6372**, use code **5087**

SAVE THE DATE

LINK MOBILE FOOD PANTRY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31



H.U.G.S.

Life can feel especially heavy when we find ourselves without a partner—whether through the death of a spouse, divorce, or separation from family. Those seasons of loneliness can make even everyday tasks feel overwhelming. H.U.G.S. is a new group forming at Holy Cross for people navigating life on their own, offering a caring space for support, encouragement, and shared experience. We'll walk alongside one another, listening with open hearts and offering compassion, understanding, and plenty of hugs.

The first H.U.G.S. gathering will be **today, January 11, after the worship service**, in the **conference room**. If you're grieving, feeling alone, or simply looking for connection with others who understand this journey, you are warmly invited to join us. All are welcome.



Sometimes prayer can seem challenging. Sometimes we think we are praying "wrong." But prayer is just a conversation with God. Join the Adult Sunday School class in looking at several stories about Jesus that can help us pray. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the conference room. All are welcome.

THANK YOU TO SUZANNE BAGGETT!



Thank you for playing the organ today while Jeremy is away. You make beautiful music that helps lead and support our singing!

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.

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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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

Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM

During Year A of the lectionary, most of the gospel readings come from the Gospel according to Matthew. The post-Christmas standard Sundays of the year begin with a narrative of Jesus' baptism, just as in the church, our life as Christians begins with baptism.



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.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace

by Kenon D. Renfro

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Assembly: Amen.

Pastor: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Mighty God, lover of justice,

Assembly: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to

seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Pastor:

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in \dagger Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Assembly:

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

Worship begins at the water. "Shall We Gather at the River" invites us to assemble where God's grace flows freely, an image that resonates deeply on Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. As Jesus steps into the Jordan, we, too, are drawn again to the waters that mark our belonging. This hymn gathers us not only as individuals, but as a baptized people, standing together at the edge of God's renewing work.

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

GREETING

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

(ELW Setting 1)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mercy.
 Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
 Amen, amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

(Stanzas 1-4)

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
 2 My gracious Master and my God, as I assist me to proclaim,
 3 The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
 4 He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
 the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the honors of your name.
 sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.
 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
 O fallen human race!
 Look and be saved through faith alone,
 be justified by grace!
 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
 be now and ever giv'n
 by saints below and saints above,
 the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

The prayer of the day, based on the contemporary collect for the day in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, applies the narrative of Jesus' baptism to our own. The binary "your daughters and sons" can be replaced with "your beloved children."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor:

Let us pray. O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Assembly:

Amen.

Please sit.



LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

The first Servant Song is appointed because Christians have seen in it a description of Jesus Christ, the one chosen by God to bring forth justice throughout the world. By baptism, believers are called into the way of Christ to be a new creation, to receive the name of God and become lights in the world.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.
² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth,
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

This passage from Acts is chosen to coordinate with the gospel from Matthew 3. The sermon put into Peter's mouth places baptism as the beginning of Christian ministry. All who believe in the name of Jesus receive forgiveness.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Reader: A reading from Acts of the Apostles.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the

prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reader: Word of God, word of life.
Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Setting 1)

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter.
Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able

This hymn gives voice to the heart of the day. Set squarely within the promises of baptism, "Baptized in Water" proclaims that we are claimed, sealed, and named as God's own. As we hear the story of Jesus' baptism (heaven opened, the Spirit descending, and God's voice speaking love) this hymn reminds us that those same promises rest upon us, shaping our identity and calling us into lives of service and witness.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Baptized in Water

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time, featuring a treble clef and a bass clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The score is divided into three stanzas, each with three lines of lyrics. The first stanza is: "1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the", "2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the", "3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the". The second stanza is: "blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his", "tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -", "sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's". The third stanza is: "prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.", "giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.", "chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.". The music includes various dynamics and rests, such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and a fermata over the third note of the first measure.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Assisting Minister: Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the greater church.

Assembly:

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need.

Assisting Minister: Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation.

Assisting Minister: Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in Holy Cross Lutheran Church, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. During this time of transition, guide the discernment of our congregation and that of the one you are calling to serve among us as pastor. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We remember the saints.

Assisting Minister: Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Pastor: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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.

Scan the QR code below if you would like to give your offering electronically.



Venmo

THE PEACE

Pastor:

Assembly:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please sit.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesus Loves Me

arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 up 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy.... and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

(Setting 1)

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. Blessed is he who comes in the

 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished.

This is the table where we who are broken are made whole. So, come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus gave thanks, took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying, “This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and said, “This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.”

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

We ask, merciful God, that you send, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. Let that same Spirit rest on us, call us from the folly of this world, until in wisdom, we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

All this we ask through your son, Jesus Christ. By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

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. Red wine and white grape juice are available in individual cups. Bread served is Gluten Free. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, cross your arms over your chest. Return to your seat by the side aisle.*

AGNUS DEI

(Setting 1)

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, grant us peace.

At the table, we come with empty hands. "Just as I Am" is a quiet confession of trust: that we approach Christ not by merit or achievement, but by grace alone. In baptism we are welcomed as we are, and at communion that welcome is renewed. This hymn gently prepares our hearts to receive Christ's presence with humility and gratitude.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry
 shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, with - out,
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

The baptism of Jesus is marked by the Spirit descending like a dove, and this hymn becomes our prayer that the same Spirit would shape and sustain us. It asks God to soften our hearts, deepen our faith, and align our love with God's own. As we receive bread and cup, we also ask to be continually formed by the Spirit's renewing power.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scand - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to - love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me the find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780–1860
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–1897

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. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: **Amen.**





WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



We are sent as the baptized. "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" echoes God's voice at Jesus' baptism, words of love, promise, and commissioning. Having gathered at the water and the table, we are sent into the world marked by God's blessing, called to live out our baptism in lives of compassion, justice, and hope.

SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at - peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at - peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the triune God, who has put a new song in
your mouth and tuned your heart for praise
☩ bless you now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Ode to Joy

arr. Kenon D. Renfro

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.

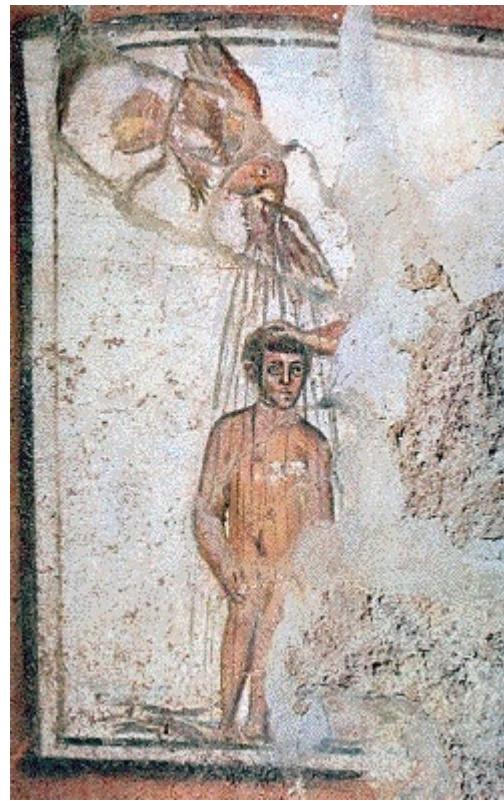
FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

[Tertullian, in Baptism: Ancient Liturgies and Patristic Texts, ed. A. Hamman, O.F.M. (Staten Island, NY: Alba, 1967).]

After the waters of the flood, by which the old iniquity was purged—after the baptism, so to say, of the world—a dove was the herald that announced to the earth the assuagement of celestial wrath. For the dove had been sent its way out of the ark, and it had returned with the olive branch, a sign that even among the nations is the good omen of peace. So, by the selfsame law of heavenly effect, to the earth—that is, to our flesh—as it emerges from the font, having put an end to our sins, flies the dove of the Holy Spirit. This Spirit brings us the peace of God, having been sent out from the heavens, where dwells the real church, of which the ark is a symbol.

—*Tertullian*

One of the earliest depictions of Christian baptism is in the catacomb of Marcellinus and Peter in Rome.



THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356

Friday, January 17, 2025

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346

Friday, January 17, 2025

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

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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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