



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026 | 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



At Holy Cross Lutheran Church, we joyfully celebrate that every person is a beloved child of God. No matter who you are, where you come from, or what your story is, you are welcome here. We are committed to breaking down barriers, embracing diversity, and building a community rooted in love, equality, and grace. Whatever your race, background, identity, or circumstance, you are safe, valued, and cherished among us. Thank you for joining us in this experience of discovering the boundless love of God while building a welcoming, inclusive, and affirming faith community. You have a place here!



Connect With Us!

Address:

1090 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 20170-3805

Phone:

703-437-1883

Website:

www.holycrossherndon.org

Email:

admin@holycrossherndon.org

Today's Introduction

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

**JUL
24**

Link Food Distribution Event

Holy Cross is hosting a LINK Food Distribution on Saturday, July 25, serving 200+ local families in the Herndon area — and we need your help!

**AUG
09**

Vacation Bible School 2026!

Join us at Holy Cross for Vacation Bible School starting August 9, 2026! Fun, faith, and friendship await for all ages!

Weekly Update

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



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday, July 12, 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.

FLOWERS: Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Gene Bain by his family.

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

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

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler | Joy Caveney
Joel Flegel | 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)
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

Pastor:	Rev. Eric Randolph
Director of Music and Liturgy:	Jeremy Shoop
Sound Technician:	Bob Thompson
Video Technician:	Sylvia Moran

Serving July 12th: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Assisting Minister:	Anne Geiger
Reader:	Catherine Taylor
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	Lauren Gist

Serving July 19th: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Assisting Minister:	TBD
Reader:	Jared Lem
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	Cheryl Smith

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: JULY 12 – 19

SU 12	10:00 am	Worship – 7 th Sunday after Pentecost
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	HUGS Group ~ Conference Rm
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 14	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12 ~ FH
	6:30 pm	Fiber Arts Group ~ Rm 202
W 15	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	7:00 pm	ELL Summer Classes ~ Education Wing
SA 18	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	10:30 am	Quilting Group ~ Rm 202
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: 7 th Day Called2Be ~ FH
SU 19	10:00 am	Worship – 8 th Sunday after Pentecost
	11:00 am	Celebrating Our Transition ~ FH
	12:00 pm	Council Meeting ~ Rm 202
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

MEET WITH PASTOR ERIC

As part of his 90-day plan, Pastor Eric is setting aside time during his first weeks to hold listening sessions and meet with members of the congregation.

These listening sessions are an opportunity for Pastor Eric to get to know people at HCLC, hear joys and concerns, and begin building relationships as we work together to shape our mission and ministry moving forward.

A sign-up sheet is available online for both one-on-one meetings and group sessions. Evening group sessions will be held on Zoom. Links will be sent to those who sign up. Locations for one-on-one meetings will be arranged individually and may take place at the church office or a local coffee shop.

If none of the listed times work for you, please reach out to Pastor Eric directly to arrange another time.

Scan QR Code
to sign up:



VBS—SAVE THE DATE



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

H.U.G.S. MEETING TODAY



The HUGS group will meet **today, July 12** after the service in the conference room. We are here to support each other through whatever happens in our lives.

Having a rough day? Stop by—hugs are free!

THANK YOU!

What a wonderful welcome to Pastor Eric. The dessert tables were full of delightful choices to savor. It was great to have so many stay and get a chance to talk with Pastor Eric and each other. Thanks to all who brought desserts, to Anne for helping set up and decorate, and to the many kind souls who helped clean up afterward.



You are invited to join a special Festival Choir for Pastor Eric's installation service. Festival Choir members only need to attend three rehearsals (two of which will take place conveniently right after Sunday worship) and then sing at the installation service. Whether you are too busy for the regular choir schedule, have always wanted to give choir a try, or simply love to sing, we would be delighted to have you join us. Bring a friend to sing with you!

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/ERFestivalChoir>

STEPHEN MINISTRY INSTALLATION TODAY

Join us today 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.

LINK FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Holy Cross is hosting the LINK Mobile Food Distribution again, and we need your help! We have several volunteer opportunities available on both **Friday and Saturday**, at Holy Cross with a variety of time slots to fit different schedules. Many hands are needed to make these distributions a success. Volunteers can help **bag and distribute food**, assist with **directing traffic**, or support the overall flow of the operation. This is a meaningful and rewarding way to serve our community and share in this important ministry. We hope you'll consider joining us!

Jul. LINK Signup
7/24 & 7/25



Aug. LINK Signup
8/28 & 8/29



Sep. LINK Signup
9/17 & 9/18



SHARE THE PROMISE OF GOD'S HARVEST TOGETHER!

Join the Holy Cross family in celebrating this devotional practice. As you plant and your seeds share your story! How has this practice deepened your faith or brought moments of reflection into your life? Show us where you've planted your seeds, the progress they've made, or the harvest they've brought forth.

Email your photos and reflection to:

admin@holycrossherndon.org and/or
pastor@holycrossherndon.org

Share your photos with the community at:

<https://join.photocircleapp.com/VHVK5XPN7H>
or scan the QR code.



1090 Sterling Road, Herndon VA 20170

THE PROMISE OF GOD'S HARVEST

Planting Seeds of Faith

This morning, we heard the parable of the sower and the seeds, a story that reminds us of God's abundant grace and the promise that, even from what appears small, dormant, or lifeless, God brings forth a harvest. Today, as a way of living out this promise, you are invited to take the packet of seeds you received this morning and plant them as part of your devotional life.



Planting seeds is a simple yet powerful practice. It invites us to slow down, tend to something with care, and trust in the unseen work of god. As you prepare your seeds, and watch them grow, may it be a time of prayerful reflection. Let this practice remind you that God is always planting seeds of love, grace, and hope in your life. Afterall, God's harvest will come, even when we cannot yet see it.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL PRACTICE

Prepare Your Soil:

Find a small patch of earth or a container with soil to plant your seeds. As you prepare the soil, take a moment to reflect on your own spiritual “soil.” Are there places in your life that feel rocky, thorny, or fertile? Offer these to God in prayer, trusting that God can work in all conditions.

Sow the Seeds with Intention:

As you gently plant your seeds, consider what seeds God might be planting in your life right now. What small acts of love, kindness, or faith is God calling you to nurture?

Water and Wait:

Water your seeds and place them where they can receive sunlight. As you care for them in the days and weeks to come, let this practice remind you that growth takes time—and that God is always at work, even when we cannot see the results.

Reflect and Pray:

Use the prayer as part of your devotional practice, or create your own prayer as you continue to care for your seeds and watch them grow.

Share Your Journey:

We’d love to see how your seeds are growing and hear how this practice is shaping your faith! Snap a photo of your seeds being planted, sprouting, or blooming, and share it with us.

A PRAYER FOR PLANTING AND GROWING

Glorious and ever-creating God,
you are the sower of all good things.
You scatter seeds of grace, love, and hope
into our lives with wild generosity.
As I plant these seeds today,
remind me of your promise:
that even from what is small and hidden,
you bring forth life and abundance.
Help me to trust in your work,
to care for the seeds of faith
you have planted in me,
and to bear fruit for your kingdom.
May these seeds
remind me of your presence,
your patience, and your boundless love.
In Jesus’ name I pray,
Amen.



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.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Today the gospel refers specifically to the preaching of the word. Let the bread and wine of the eucharist nurture the fruitfulness of the seed of the word.



WE GATHER



“O God, Whose Word Well-Planted” is a new hymn for Holy Cross. For more information about the hymn, see page 10 of this bulletin. Feel free to hum along as the prelude is played!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O God, Whose Word Well-Planted

arr. Stephen P. Folkemer

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, source of hope in every nation, rest of the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Assembly: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: Let us bring every burden to God.

Pastor: Compassionate God,
 Assembly: **God of all mercy, we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your good creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” is only one of more than 1000 hymns written by the Lutheran pastor in predominantly Catholic Schweidnitz, Poland where he was severely restricted in his work. He was a popular preacher, and despite poor health and eyesight carried on a vigorous and successful ministry, aided in part by his fine hymns. The parable of the sower from today’s Gospel reading is reflected in stanza three of “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty.”

Pastor:

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

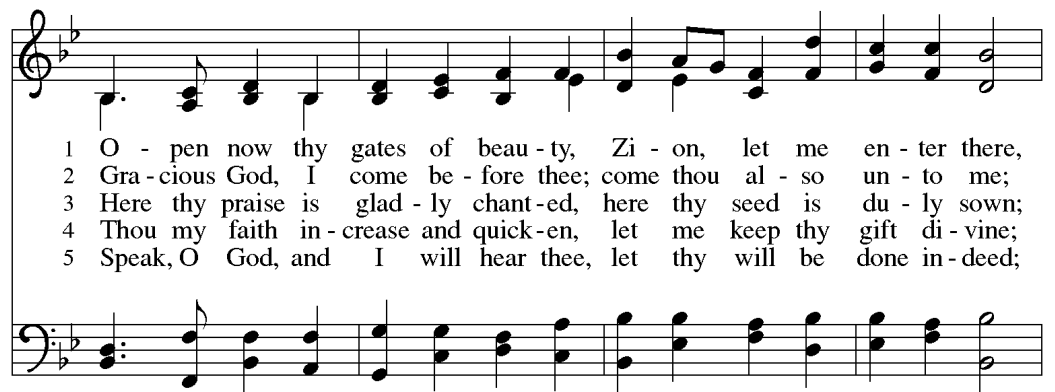
Assembly:

Amen.

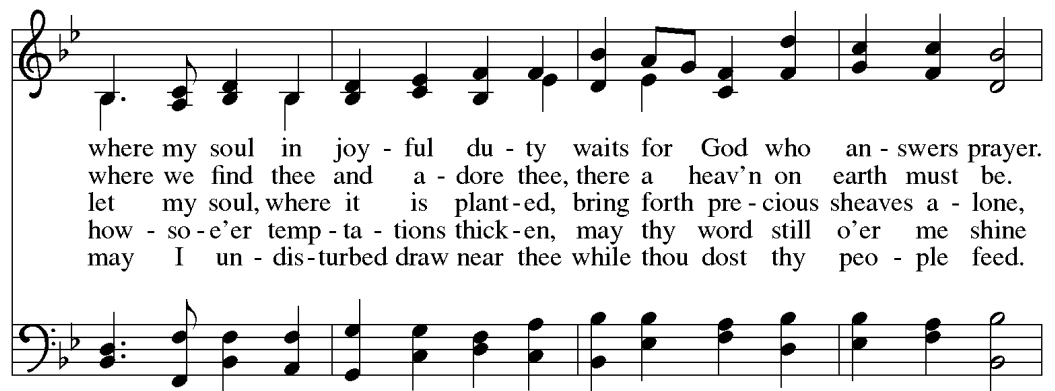
GATHERING HYMN

(Stanzas 1, 3 & 5)

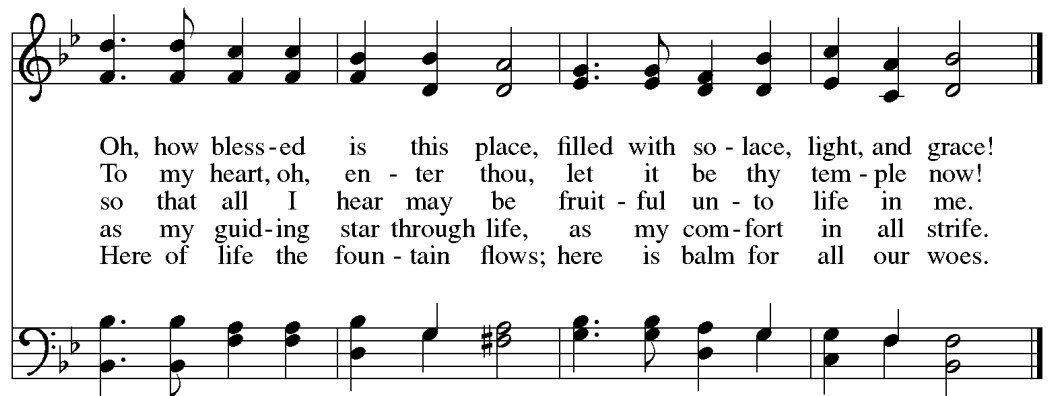
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



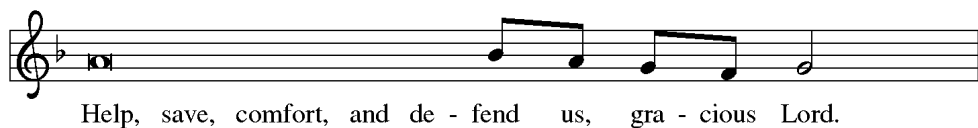
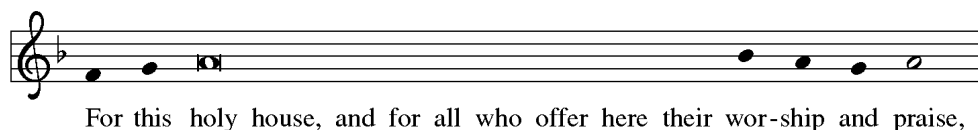
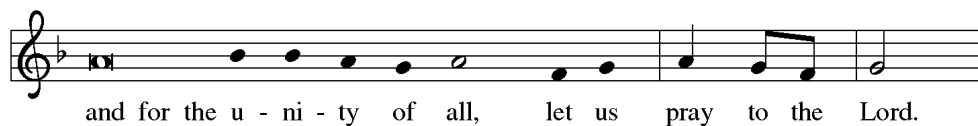
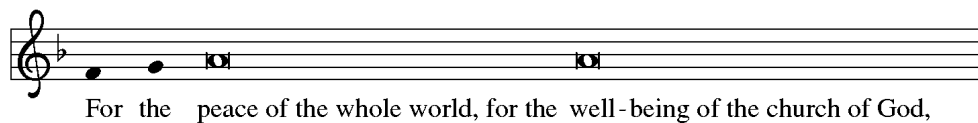
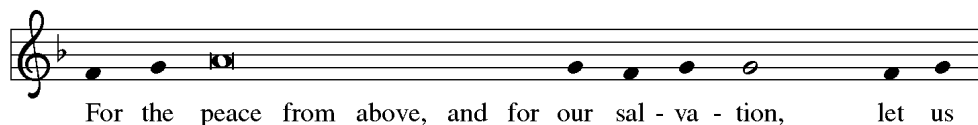
Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

APOSTOLIC 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 - mighty 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 comes from #85 in the 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. The seed of the word grows in us, forming us to live by the Spirit of the risen Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor:

Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly:

Amen.

Please sit.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD



SEEDS OF FAITH

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

Reader:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you

Also appointed for the Easter Vigil when it means to point to the new life of Christ's resurrection, here the passage from Isaiah 55 connects with Matthew's parable of the seed. Jesus continues the prophetic tradition of likening the living word of God to fruitful seed.

shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

*The baptized
community lives in the
Spirit of the crucified
Christ. Only in this
Spirit can the seed of
the word be fruitful.
Each Sunday is a
reception of this word
and a celebration of
the food of the Spirit.*

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

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

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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.

Christians have used Matthew's parable of the sower to honor the preaching of the word and to encourage right and fruitful reception of it.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.
Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.
⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil,

Today's Gospel provides a fitting opportunity for us to learn and sing this new hymn together. "O God, Whose Word Well-Planted" takes up the parable of the sower imagery as a prayer. We ask God to plant the word deeply within us, to loosen what has become hardened, to clear away the worries and distractions that choke faith, and to nurture lives that bear abundant fruit. As we sing this hymn for the first time, may its words take root among us, shaping Holy Cross into a community that receives God's word with openness and brings forth a harvest of compassion, justice, welcome, and love.

this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

Please sit.

SERMON

The Promise of God's Harvest

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, Whose Word Well-Planted

1 O God, whose word well-plant-ed yields fruit a hun-dred-fold,
 2 O God of seed and har-vest, of sun and soil and rain,
 3 O God, your fi-nal har-vest of his-t'ry's an-cient field

we praise your grac-es grant-ed to those who sowed of old,
 at-tend the word we sow, lest its plant-ing be in vain.
 will test with truth the proud-est that hu-man work can yield.

who by their wit-ness scat-tered good seed up-on the soil
 Send show-ers of your Spir-it, bright sun-shine of your grace,
 Op-pres-sion's blight will van-ish, fair free-dom's fruits in-crease;

where oth-ers, reap-ing, gath-ered the har-vest of their toil.
 that mul-ti-tudes who hear it your gos-pel may em-brace.
 and love and joy will flour-ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLE'S CREED

Pastor: With the church catholic, we are bold to confess our faith by the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Assembly: 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.

Please be seated.

COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

Pastor: Dear sisters: Joana Roe, Beverly Siecker, and Diana Virgo, you have been equipped to serve as Stephen Ministers at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Listen now to these words from Scripture: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 *Corinthians* 1:3–4).

As the Spirit of Christ has given you gifts for service, we ask you to use your skills, talents, and prayers to help those people you serve.

As Jesus has shown his care to you, we ask you to help this congregation grow as a caring community through your own caring ministry.

	Are you prepared to meet those requests that we ask of you? If so, respond, “Yes, with the help of God.”
<i>Stephen Ministers:</i>	<i>Yes, with the help of God.</i>
Pastor:	Are you prepared to nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others—to support, encourage, build up, and comfort people in their needs?
<i>Stephen Ministers:</i>	<i>Yes, with the help of God.</i>
Pastor:	Are you prepared to serve as Stephen Ministers at Holy Cross Lutheran Church?
<i>Stephen Ministers:</i>	<i>Yes, with the help of God.</i>
Pastor:	<i>(addressing the congregation)</i> Now, we ask you, members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church to open your hearts to the ministry of these people and to pray for them, that they may be effective servants of Christ. Are you prepared to meet this request? If so, answer, “Yes, with the help of God.”
Assembly:	Yes, with the help of God.
Pastor:	Will you accept their ministry when you need help, and allow these individuals to work with you as you face struggles in your life, that you might receive support and help from your Christian brothers and sisters?
Assembly:	Yes, with the help of God.
Pastor:	Joana, Beverly, and Diana, may God bless you richly that you might be a blessing to others.
	Because you have promised faithfully to serve the Lord Jesus and his people as Stephen Ministers, I commend you to the care and guidance of the Holy Spirit as you in turn care for others. Work hard. Use the skills you have learned, drawing on the gifts and talents the Spirit of God has given you so that you might be a blessing to the people you meet and care for.

A Training Certificate is presented to each Stephen Minister by Stephen Ministry Leader, Sarah Schulmeyer.

Pastor: Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Let us pray. O God, we ask you to take Joana Roe, Beverly Siecker, and Diana Virgo into your care. You have blessed them with gifts and talents and have provided them with an opportunity to learn more about helping people. May they serve you with the power of the Holy Spirit; may they be quick to serve, patient in listening, willing to share themselves with people. Give to us thankful hearts for them, and show them in times of stress and satisfaction a special measure of your mercy and joy. Keep them strong in the faith you have given them for the sake of Jesus, who cares for all of us in every way forever.

Assembly: Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

INTERCESSION OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the greater church.

Assisting Minister: Trusting in God’s steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the nations, and all of creation, responding: “God of grace, hear our prayer.”

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah’s vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need.

We pray for our congregation

We remember the saints.

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

Assisting Minister: God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns, especially these we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: God our source, tend Holy Cross Lutheran Church with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Assembly: Amen.

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

Assembly: And also with you.

Please sit.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Assisting Minister: We have been commanded to love our neighbor. we are called to love God with all that we are and all that we have. Through our love of God and neighbor we are rich in so many ways. We invite you to share you financial riches with this community and all those whose lives are touched through its ministries. Let us give generously.

OFFERING

Curtis Stephan is a contemporary composer of liturgical music whose melodies are known for being both energetic and accessible to the worshiping assembly. His "Mass of St. Kilian" was created with joyful, triumphant celebrations in mind. Its broad melodies, rhythmic vitality, and recurring musical ideas unite the different parts of the liturgy, helping the assembly experience worship not as a collection of separate moments but as one unfolding prayer. To introduce this new liturgy selections will be played throughout the summer. Our first Sunday using the setting will be Rally Day.

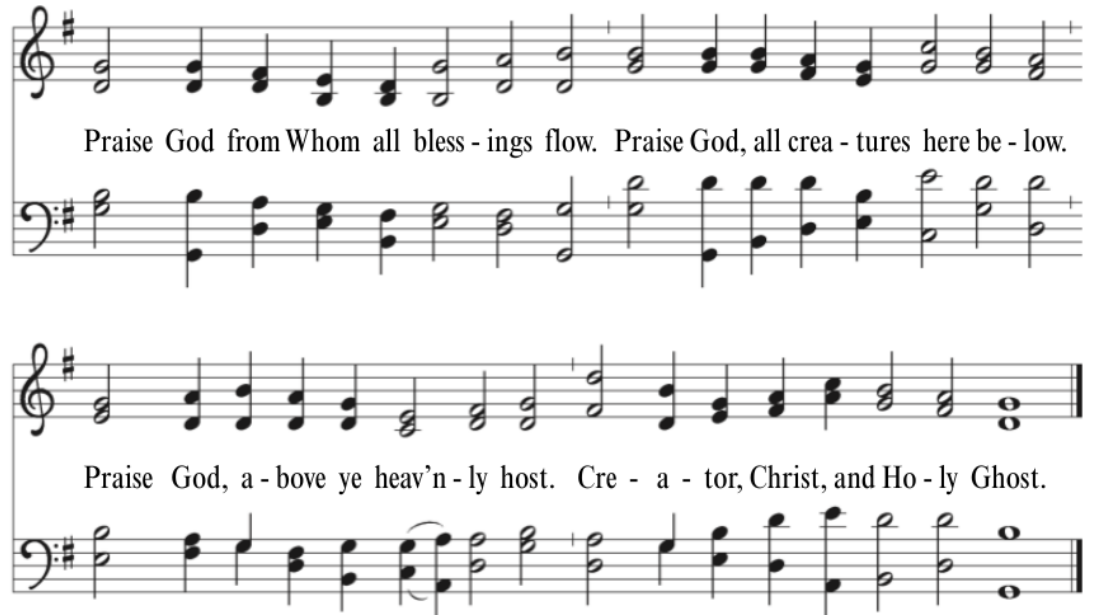
MUSICAL OFFERING

Mass of St. Kilian - III. Glory to God

by Curtis Stephan

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray together. Loving God,
Assembly: 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. Amen.



WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

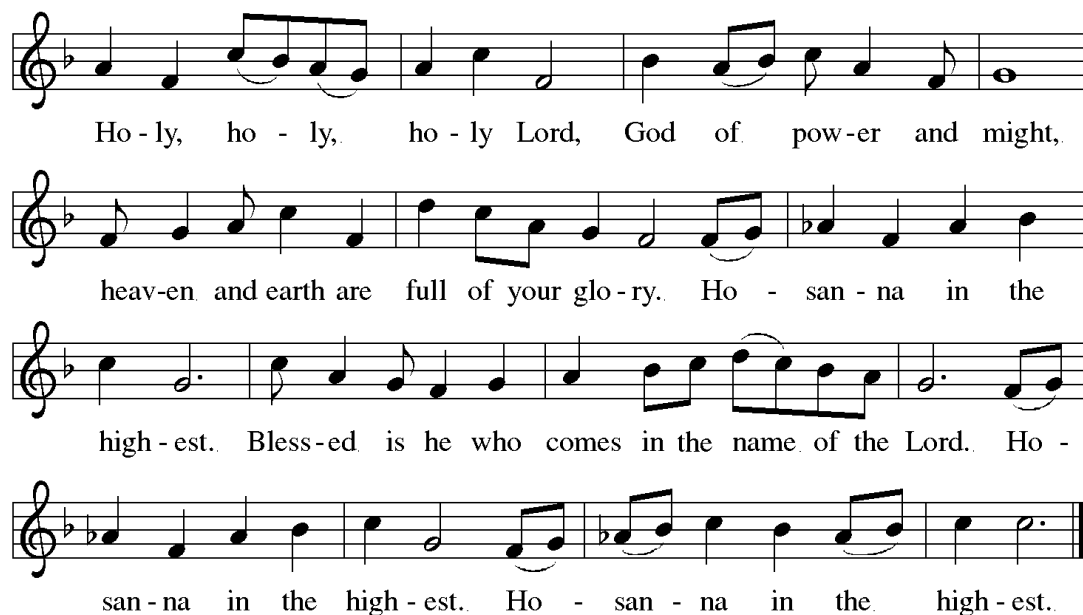
Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor:

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor:

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
 You are most holy, and great is the majesty of
 your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only
 Son, so that everyone who believes in him may
 not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
 to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish
 all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from
this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he
comes.

**Assembly: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will
come again.**

Pastor: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious
resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his
coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God
Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we
ask you mercifully to accept our praise and
thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit
to bless us, your servants, and these your own
gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who
share in the body and blood of Christ may be
filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and,
receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to
live as your holy people and be given our
inheritance with all your saints.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God,
almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever.

Assembly: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as
our Savior taught:

**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.**

THE FRACTURE (BREAKING OF THE BREAD)

Pastor: The Lamb of God is broken and distributed;
broken but never divided; forever eaten, and yet
never consumed, but sanctifying those who
partake.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: This is the table, not of the church, but of the
Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and
for those who want to love God more. So come,
you who have much faith and you who have little;
You who have been here often and you who have
not been here long; You who have tried to follow
and you who have failed. Come, because it is the
Lord who invites you. It is God's will that those
who want God should meet here at Christ's table.

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste
and know that God is good to all.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

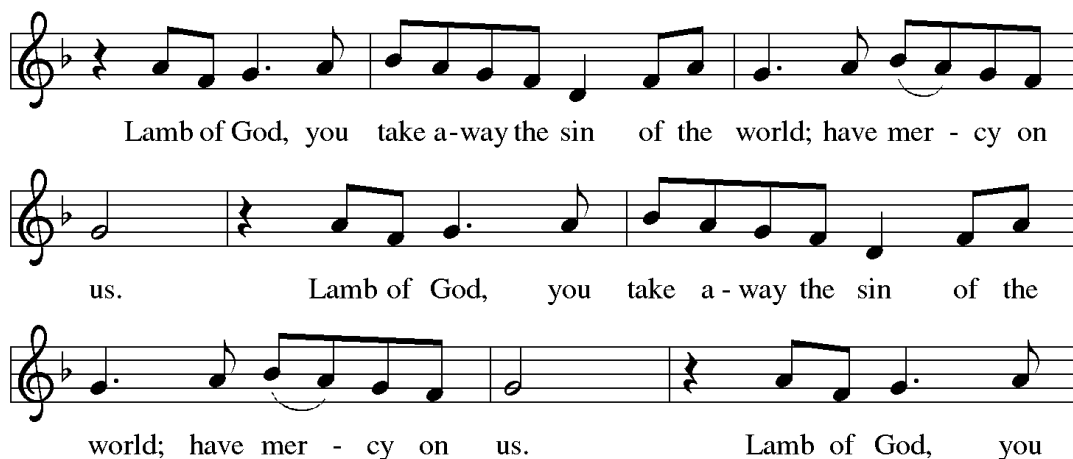
Please sit.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*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.*

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

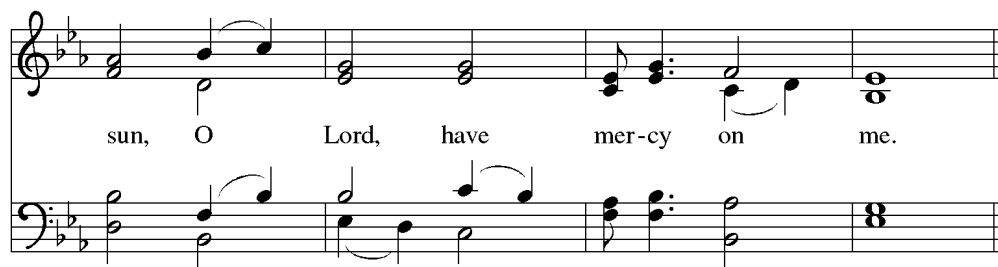
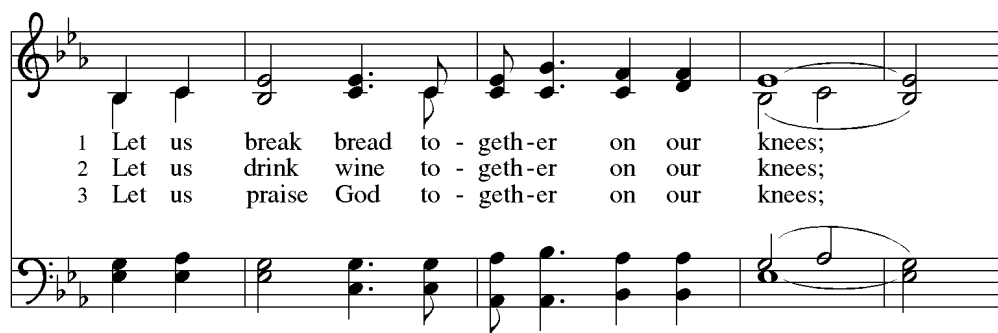
There are few spirituals which deal with communion, but the reverent simplicity of this hymn has made it very popular in American hymnals since about 1955. The "Guide to the Pilgrim Hymnal" (1966) states, "The refrain reminds us of the publican's prayer commended by Jesus (Luke 18:13), and of the age-old petition, 'Kyrie eleison' – Lord have mercy – which has been a part of the Communion Service in the Eastern Church since the fifth century, and of the Western Church since the sixth."

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



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Let Us Break Bread Together



Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
 Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
 Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Please stand as you are able.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

Pastor: 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 together. Compassionate God,
Assembly: **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. Amen.**



WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



Our Sending Hymn continues with the harvesting theme from today's Gospel reading.

Fred Pratt Green is one of the 20th century's most prominent hymn writers. Having died in the year 2000 (at 97 years old!) he has left us a multitude of beautiful hymn texts, 11 of which are used in the ELW. For the most part Mr. Green selected the hymn tunes to which he wrote his texts (many hymns are done in the reverse, a composer will find a text and write a tune to it). The tunes Mr. Green chose were often folk tunes. "For the Fruit of All Creation" is set to a Welsh folk tune originally arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The second half of each stanza in this hymn shows the poetic nature and powerful force that Mr. Green can create in terms of ideas and rhymes.

SENDING HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

Martin Luther retained the word “Mass” in his liturgical reforms to preserve the historic continuity of Christian worship. For Luther, the term was familiar and deeply meaningful, but he redefined its use to emphasize the true presence of Christ in the liturgy of Holy Communion, not as a repeated sacrifice, but as the real, tangible gift of Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Additionally, “Mass” has come to signify not only Christ’s true presence in Holy Communion but also God’s abiding presence with God’s people in worship through the Means of Grace (the Word and sacraments).

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Author of Life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, + one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day.

Assembly: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: The mass is ended, now our service begins. Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Go Out with Joy!

by Mary McDonald

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

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931 Sunday, July 12, 2026

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566 Friday, July 17, 2026

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

*[Teresa of Ávila, in
The Mystics of Spain,
ed. Allison Peers
(London: Allen and
Unwin, 1951), 81-83.]*

Beginners in prayer are those who draw the water from the well. This is very hard work, for it will fatigue them to keep their sense recollected, which is extremely difficult because they have been accustomed to a life of distraction. God grant that there may be water in the well! But that, at least, does not depend on us: our task is to draw it and to do what we can to water the flowers. What, then, will a person do who finds for many days nothing but aridity, dislike, and distaste? The gardener will rejoice and take new heart and consider it the greatest of favors to work in the garden of so great an Emperor. Let not the gardener wish to have God's kingdom on earth or ever cease from prayer, but rather resolve, even if this aridity should persist a whole life long, not to let Christ fall with his cross.

— *Teresa of Ávila*

*This icon, found in
Saints Konstantine and
Helen Orthodox
Church in Cluj,
Romania, depicts the
seeds scattered in the
ways described in the
parable. At worship,
the sower of the seed of
the word is Christ
himself.*



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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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