



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026 | 8th 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

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

**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 19, 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 FAITH COMMUNITY

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)
Joana Cherry (mother of Jo Roe)
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)
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 19th: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Serving July 26th: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: JULY 19 – 26

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
TU 21	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12 ~ FH
W 22	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	7:00 pm	ELL Summer Classes ~ Education Wing
F 24	3:00 pm	LINK Food Distribution Set Up ~ FH
SA 25	8:00 am	LINK Food Distribution ~ Parking Lot
	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
SU 26	10:00 am	Worship – 9 th Sunday after Pentecost
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	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:



Mark your calendars for **August 9–13, from 6:00–8:00 p.m.** and join us for a fun-filled week of faith, fellowship, and learning—with dinner provided each evening!

Kids will take on the **Snowball Mountain Challenge**, while adults are invited to **Grace Unfolded: Exploring the Heart of Lutheran Faith**, led by Pastor Eric. There's something for every generation to enjoy as we grow in faith together.



THANK YOU!

Thank you, Pierre Huggins, for your work in the flower bed around our front **Holy Cross Lutheran Church** sign. It's one of the first things people see when they arrive, and your care helps create a welcoming impression!



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>

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

In this season after Pentecost, as we grow in faith and discipleship, flowers in the sanctuary remind us of God's ongoing grace and abundant blessings.

There are slots available to dedicate flowers in the coming weeks. Up to two vases can be dedicated each Sunday. Scan the QR code and sign up to celebrate a life event or remember a loved one.



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
9/18 & 9/19



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.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Following the thoughtful complexity of the lectionary, the standard Sundays continue to read Matthew in light of Romans.



WE GATHER



“We Plow the Fields and Scatter” is a new hymn for Holy Cross. For more information about the hymn, see page 9 of this bulletin. Feel free to hum along as the prelude is played!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

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.**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies” begins with the first light of day and gradually expands into a hymn of unending praise. Translated from a German text and commonly sung to the joyful tune LAUDES DOMINI, each stanza returns to the refrain, “May Jesus Christ be praised.” The hymn reminds us that praise is not limited to worship or to moments of happiness; it can accompany us through work and rest, joy and sorrow, morning and evening. As the rising sun gilds the sky, so the name of Christ brings light and hope to every part of our lives.

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

When Morning Gilds the Skies



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
 4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

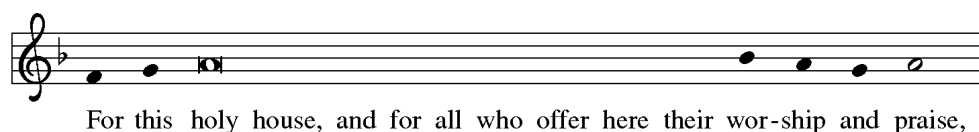
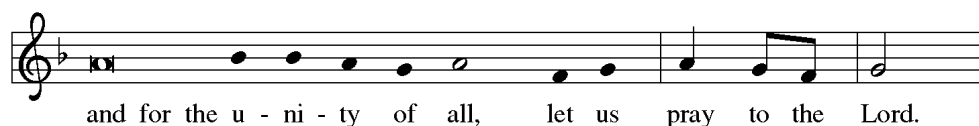
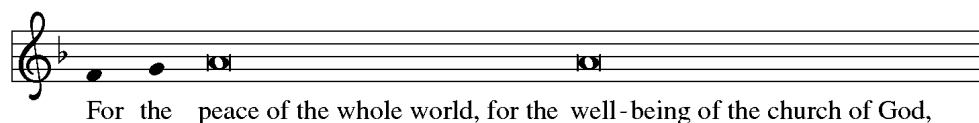
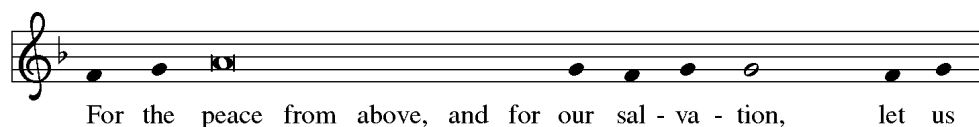
this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

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, based on one in the 2002 Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (p. 162), praises God for planting in us the seed of the word. We pray that by the Spirit we will grow in faith and hope.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor:

Let us pray. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly:

Amen.

Please sit.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD



SEEDS OF FAITH

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.

Much of Matthew's Gospel describes Christians as living in righteousness. Yet the parable of the wheat and the weeds warns against our tendency to identify who is evil and who is good. Christ, the Son of Man, is the judge.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

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

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

Please sit.

SERMON

Tangled Roots, Tender Grace

Please stand as you are able.

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter” places the work of planting and harvesting within the larger mystery of God’s grace. Human beings may sow, tend, and labor, but growth itself remains God’s gift. In conversation with Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the weeds in Matthew 13, the hymn reminds us that the field belongs to God and that the final harvest rests in God’s hands. Amid tangled roots and imperfect fields, God continues to provide sun, rain, growth, and sustenance. Its recurring affirmation that “all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above” invites us to receive the harvest not as something we have earned, but as a sign of God’s patient and generous grace.

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Aramos nuestros campos



A - ra - mos nues-tros cam-pos, y lue-goel sem-bra-dor
 1 We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land,
 2 You on-ly are the mak-er of all things near and far.
 3 We thank you, our cre-a-tor, for all things bright and good,



en e-llos la si-mien-te es-par-ce con a-mor.
 but it is fed and wa-tered by God’s al-might-y hand,
 You paint the way-side flow-er, you light the eve-ning star.
 the seed-time and the har-vest, our life, our health, our food.



Mas es de Dios la ma-no que laha-ce ger-mi-nar,
 who sends the snow in win-ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o-bey you, by you the birds are fed;
 No gifts have we to of-fer for what your love im-parts



ca-lor y llu-via dan-do a to-dos por i-gual.
 the breez-es and the sun-shine, and soft re-fresh-ing rain.
 much more to us, your chil-dren, you give our dai-ly bread.
 but what you most would trea-sure—our hum-ble, thank-ful hearts.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.;

Spanish tr. Ernesto Baricio, 1866-1948

Music: Luis Olivieri, b. 1937

Music © 1989 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company



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.

INTERCESSION OF THE 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."

We pray for the greater church.

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need.

Assisting Minister: God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for our congregation.

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

We remember the saints.

Assisting Minister: God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. 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

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

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.
Assembly: And also with you.

Please sit.

Curtis Stephen 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.

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

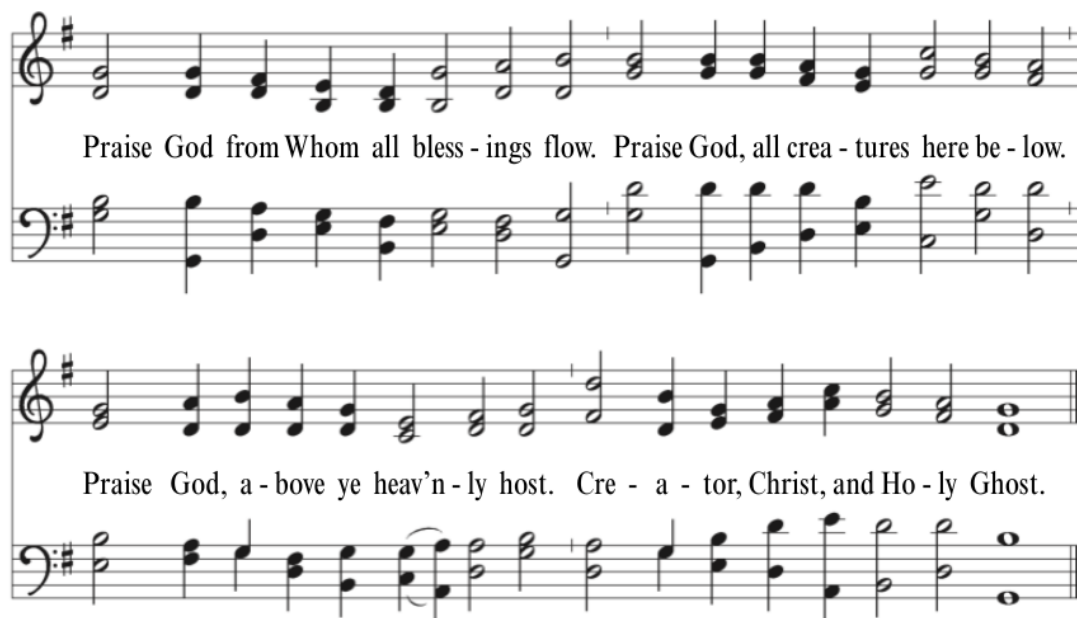
MUSICAL OFFERING

Mass of St. Kilian – II. Kyrie

by Curtis Stephen

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

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

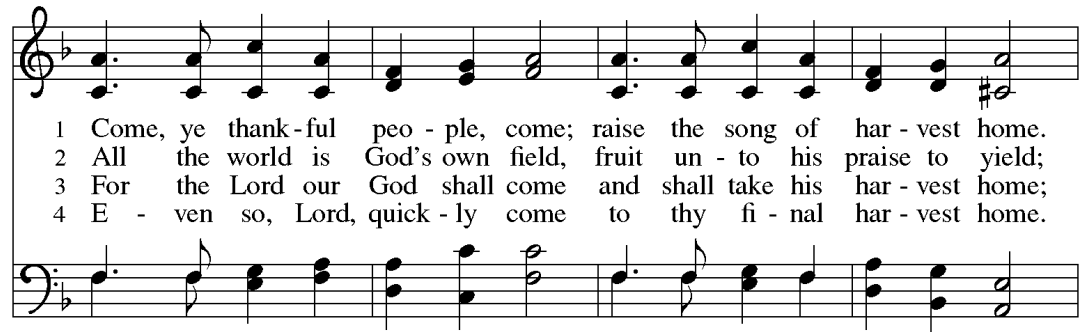


As is tradition at Holy Cross, we sing “old favorites” during communion in the summer months. During the long season of Pentecost, it is nice to take time and remember our roots by singing hymns that remind us of growing up in the church. Let the Director of Music and Liturgy know if you have a favorite hymn you’d like to make sure we sing.

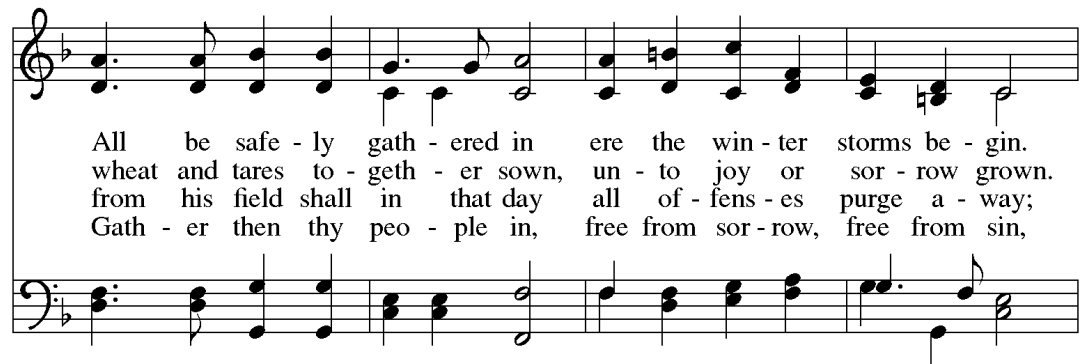
“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” is full of familiar harvest imagery that gives thanks for God’s provision while also echoing Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the weeds in Matthew 13. During communion, the hymn takes on an additional meaning: we ourselves come forward as thankful people, not to earn God’s favor, but to receive Christ’s gracious gifts of bread and wine. As we sing of harvest home, we gather at the table where God feeds, forgives, and unites us in grace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

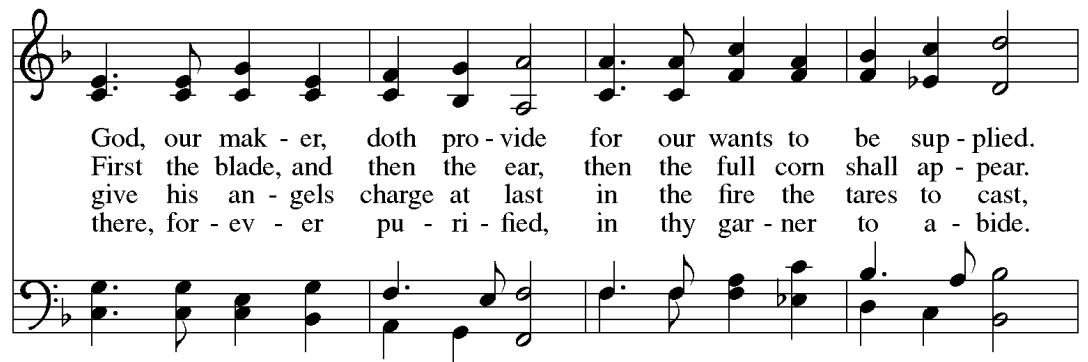
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



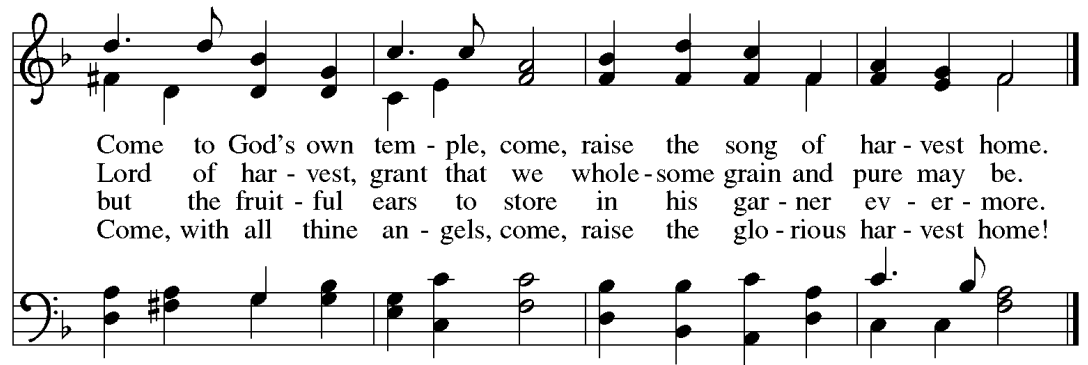
1 Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
 Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

Come, Let Us Eat

Leader or All



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
 come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
 in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
 rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
 in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt.
 Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.
 Text sts. 1–3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, 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



“God the Sculptor of the Mountains” gathers a series of vivid biblical images for God as sculptor, potter, gardener, shepherd, and giver of life. Each stanza acknowledges that creation (and we ourselves) remain works in progress, continually shaped by divine grace. In light of Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the weeds in Matthew 13, the hymn reminds us that God is still at work within the tangled field of the world, patiently tending what has been planted and bringing life from imperfect soil. As our sending hymn, it becomes a prayer that God will continue to form us, cultivate compassion within us, and send us out as instruments of tender grace.

SENDING HYMN

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

1. God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains,
 2. God the nui - sance to the Pha - raoh,
 3. God the dress - er of the vine - yard,
 4. God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant,

God the mill - er of the sand,
 God the cleav - er of the sea,
 God the plant - er of the wheat,
 God the calm, de - ter - mined youth,

God the jewel - er of the heav - ens,
 God the pil - lar in the dark - ness,
 God the reap - er of the har - vest,
 God the ta - ble - turn - ing proph - et,

God the pot - ter of the land:
 God the bea - con of the free:
 God the source of all we eat:
 God the re - sur - rect - ed truth:

You are womb of all cre - a - tion,
 You are fount of all de - liv - 'rance,
 You are host at ev - ery ta - ble,
 You are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment,

we are form - less; shape us now.
 we are sight - less; lead us now.
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

WORDS: John Thornburg
 MUSIC: Amanda Husberg

JENNINGS-HOUSTON
 87.87.87

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

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come arr. Emma Lou Diemer

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

Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

James, Apostle

Saturday, July 25, 2026

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).

ATTRIBUTIONS:

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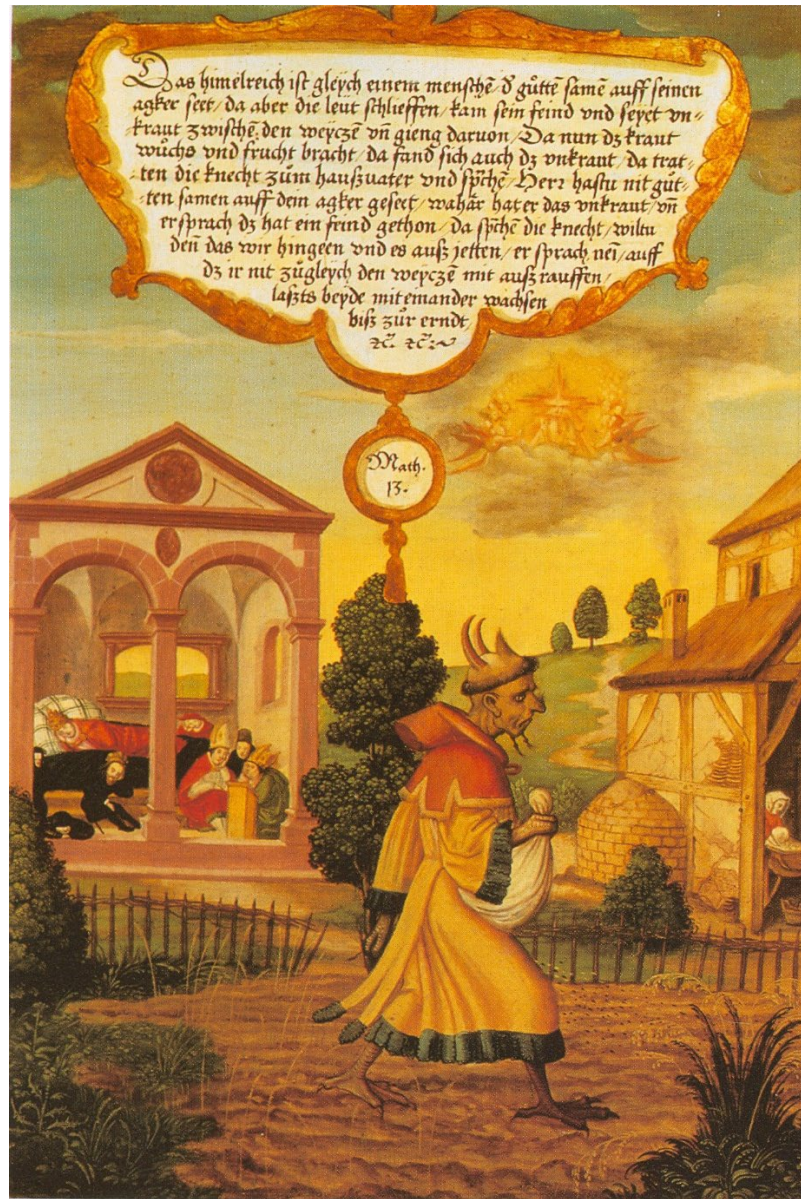
FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

[Jerome, in The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, I, 331.]

For if we are forbidden to uproot the tares, and if we are to wait in patience until the harvest time, how then are we to cast out certain persons from amongst us? Between the true wheat and the tares, while the latter is still green, and the stalk has not yet come into ear, there is a great similarity, and little or no difference between them, so as to tell one from the other. The Lord therefore warns us that in the beginning we are not to be too ready to deliver judgment, where anything is uncertain; but that we leave judgment to God, so that when the day of the Judge shall come, he shall exclude the wicked from the company of the blessed, not on the mere suspicion of having committed an offence, but because of manifest guilt.

— *Jerome*

Typical of medieval art, a 1540 painting of today's parable, made to hang on an altar in Germany, depicts the devil with horns on his head and clawed feet. The landowner is asleep, and several bishops are not alert to the machinations of the devil. Note the cross of Christ shining in the sky.



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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