

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 22, 2026

*In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.*

# Weekly Update



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

**Sunday, March 22, 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  
Friends of Thomas Newcomb currently serving in Iran*

### RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

*Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)  
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)  
Gianna Carter (granddaughter of Sam & Sharon Carter)  
Bruce Dudziak (friend of Jared Lem)  
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)  
Jason Greenwalt (friend of Cheryl Smith)  
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)  
Uwe Gutschmidt (nephew of Ellen Atwell)  
Roseanne Heim (family member of Suzanne Flegal)  
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)  
Michael Levrini (friend of Jared Lem)  
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)  
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)  
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)  
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)  
Sue Mason (sister of Pam Darby)  
Sharon Massen & Dorie Miller (friends of Craig Reichow)  
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 & Jo Roe)  
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)  
Nancy and Steven Swancutt (sister and brother of Lynn Russo)  
Dianna and Bill Tilton (friends of Jared & Nannette Lem)  
Diana Todd (friend of the Russos)  
Michelle White (friend and coworker of Kate Flegal)  
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)*

### THOSE IN MOURNING

*Family & friends of Mary Ann Carmody (aunt of Helen Wolfe)  
Family & friends of Jan Minatre (cousin of Craig Reichow)*

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

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

### Serving March 22<sup>nd</sup>: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Assisting Minister:	Rob Coffman
Reader:	Craig Swanson
Acolyte:	Diana Virgo
Greeter:	Jared Lem

### Serving March 29<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday

Assisting Minister:	Anne Geiger
Reader:	Kristin Andersen
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	Jared Lem

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: MAR 22 – MAR 29

SU 22	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Fifth Sunday in Lent
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	12:00 pm	Council Meeting ~ Conference Rm
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 24	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 25	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	6:00 pm	Lent Midweek Dinner ~ FH
	7:00 pm	Lent Midweek Worship ~ Sanctuary
	7:00 pm	ELL ~ Education Wing
TH 26	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
SA 28	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist ~ FH
	6:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
SU 29	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Palm Sunday
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

## LENTEN APPEAL – FELLOWSHIP SQUARE



This year's Lenten Appeal will be donated to Fellowship House, which is one of the leading providers of affordable housing and services to low-income seniors, owning 670 units (240 of them jointly) in the DC Metro region serving more than 850 older adults.

To donate: <https://tinyurl.com/38nx93ma>

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



*Join us as we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and prepare our hearts for Holy Week.*



*This Thursday is called "Maundy," which means "command," from the verse in John's gospel in which Jesus commands us to love another as he loved us.*



*Come to worship on Good Friday and leave all your burdens at the foot of the cross.*



*Christ is risen! Alleluia! Join us as we celebrate a risen Christ.*

## HYMN MADNESS 2026



**Voting for our 2026 Hymn Madness is underway!** Each Sunday, the congregation will vote on hymn matchups as we sing our way toward crowning a *Champion* hymn on Easter Sunday, April 5. The participant with the most points will earn the honor of choosing the hymns for a Sunday this summer—plus musical bragging rights for the year! As we continue working toward our **Transition Fund goal**, we're adding an extra layer of fun: **for every \$10 donated, you'll receive an extra ballot vote that week.** Online voting will also be available each week under **"Current Links"** on our website.

## EASTER BRUNCH POTLUCK



An Easter Brunch Potluck will follow the service on Sunday, April 5. Feel free to bring your favorite brunch food to share. Holy Cross will provide ham, a vegan option, and rolls for sandwiches.



Don't miss our Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 5, at 9:15 am on the front lawn. Bring your own basket or use one of our provided Easter bags—we hope to see you there!

*5 years and under will hunt from 9:15 - 9:30 am  
Older children will hunt from 9:30 - 9:45 am*



***It's Time to Order Easter Flowers!***

Lilies and hydrangeas will adorn our Sanctuary on Easter! To have your Flower Dedication included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 5, the completed form and contribution must be received by the church office no later than Sunday, March 29. Forms can be left in the offering plate or emailed to [Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org). Contributions can be made by check (note "Easter Flowers" in the memo line) or through Vanco.



***It's time to order Easter Flowers!***

Lilies and Hydrangeas will adorn our Sanctuary on Easter! To have your Flower Dedication included in the bulletin on Easter, April 5<sup>th</sup>, the completed form and your contribution must be received in the church office no later than Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

***PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY—Thank you!***

**Your Name:** (As you would like it to appear in the bulletin)

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**In Memory Of:**

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**In Honor Of:**

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***Forms can be emailed to [Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org)  
Donations can be made by check/cash (note "Easter Flowers")  
or through Vanco at [secure.myvanco.com/YH77](https://secure.myvanco.com/YH77)***

## **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.*

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 22, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM

*The last of the great signs in the gospel of John is the raising of Lazarus. The church sees in the narrative of the raising of Lazarus and in the vision of the dry bones metaphors for baptism and for the renewed life of faith that is the intention of Lent. The Vigil is coming soon.*



**WE GATHER**



*The petitions in this confession follow the progression of this year's Lent Gospel readings, tracing the spiritual journey that unfolds through the season, and inviting us to see our own lives within these stories of encounter with Christ.*

**Lent I: Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1–11)**  
*As Christ resists the allure of worldly power and satisfaction, we confess our own tendency to seek delights that deceive and draw us away from God.*

**Lent II: Nicodemus (John 3:1–17)**  
*Nicodemus struggles to understand the mystery of being "born from above," and we confess our inclination toward self-*

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Assembly:** **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

**Pastor:** Gracious God,  
**Assembly:** **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**Pastor:** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,  
**Assembly:** **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**Pastor:** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,  
**Assembly:** **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*reliance rather than trusting in God's renewing word and Spirit.*

***Lent III: Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:5-42)*** Jesus offers living water that becomes a spring of eternal life, while we confess how often we draw instead from wells of self-interest and ambition.

***Lent IV: Healing a blind man (John 9:1-41)*** While Jesus restores sight to the marginalized man, the religious leaders refuse to see the sign before them. We confess our own blindness to voices from the margins and to signs of God's healing work in the world.

***Lent V: Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)*** As Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb into new life, we confess the ways we remain trapped in tombs of despair, self-pity, or complacency rather than responding to Christ's call to live.

*Taken together, these petitions follow the Lenten journey from temptation to new birth, from thirst to sight, from death to life, preparing the church to enter Holy Week with honest confession and renewed hope in Christ's saving work.*

**Pastor:** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,  
**Assembly:** **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**Pastor:** For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,  
**Assembly:** **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**Pastor:** For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,  
**Assembly:** **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**Pastor:** For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,  
**Assembly:** **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**Pastor:** God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.  
**Assembly:** **Amen.**

*This early American folk hymn invites us to stand in awe before the mystery of God's life-giving love. Its haunting, minor melody reflects the stark realities of death we encounter in today's readings: the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel and the grief at Lazarus's tomb in John. Yet the text continually returns us to the question, "What wondrous love is this?", a love that enters even death itself in order to redeem and restore. In light of Romans 8, this hymn reminds us that the same love that bears the cross is the love that raises us to new life through the Spirit.*

## GATHERING HYMN

(ELW 326)

## What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.  
 Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**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**

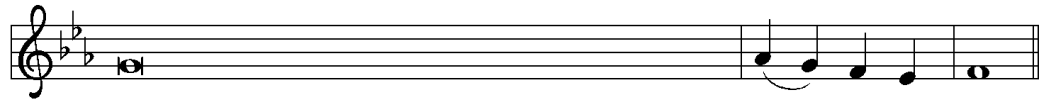
(Setting 1)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



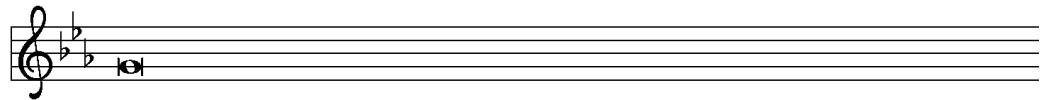
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



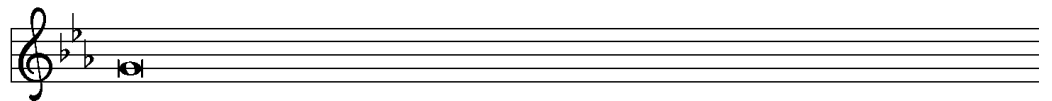
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*The prayer of the day is based on one for the fifth Sunday in Lent in the 1985 Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada. We are like the dry bones in the valley and like Lazarus in the tomb, and we pray for God's breath to raise us to new life.*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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.*



### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD



### LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

#### FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."*

**Reader:** A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you

*Christians have seen also in Ezekiel's vision a picture of the resurrection of the dead at the end of time. Both now and at the end we rise up in response to the word of the Lord. Through the power of the Spirit's breath, baptism begins our new life, a life that will never end.*

with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

*In the last of our four Lenten readings from Romans, Paul uses the language of death and life to describe the radical nature of the effect of the indwelling of Christ’s Spirit. We are now dead to sin, and the new life of Christ is already experienced here and how.*

## SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

Reader: A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans.

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> 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, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of

righteousness. <sup>11</sup> 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**

(Setting 1)



**GOSPEL**

John 11:1-45

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

Pastor: The Gospel according to John the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup> The disciples

*The church has seen in this last great Johannine sign a picture of baptism: we too were dead, but the word of Christ has called us from death and restored us to life in the Spirit. Thus Lent is our annual emerging from the grave, our helping to unbind one another for vibrant life together.*

said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”<sup>13</sup> Jesus however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.<sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”<sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.<sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,<sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.<sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.<sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.<sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”<sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”<sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.<sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.<sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.<sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep.<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her,

“Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

*Please sit.*

### SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*



*This hymn by Marty Haugen draws together the central themes of Lent, presenting the cross as the Tree of Life from which salvation grows. Each stanza reflects on God's saving work, culminating in Christ's victory over death. Paired with today's readings, the hymn proclaims that where death seems final—whether in a valley of bones or a sealed tomb—God is already at work bringing life. The refrain calls us to live as people shaped by this mystery: trusting that even in suffering and death, God is drawing us into resurrection life.*

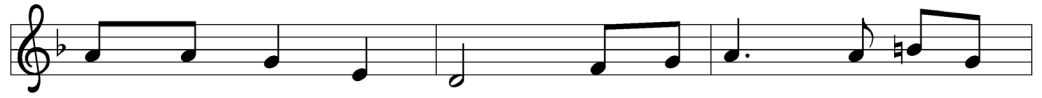
## HYMN OF THE DAY – Stanzas 1-3 &amp; Lent 5

(ELW 334)

## Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
 bod - y of our Lord.  
 riv - er, you the sea.

*One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.*

*General*

Light of life beyond conceiving,  
 mighty Spirit of our Lord;  
 give new strength to our believing,  
 give us faith to live your word

*Lent 1*

From the dawning of creation  
 you have loved us as your own;  
 stay with us through all temptation,  
 make us turn to you alone.

*Lent 2*

In our call to be a blessing,  
 may we be a blessing true;  
 may we live and die confessing  
 Christ as Lord of all we do.

*Lent 3*

Living Water of salvation,  
 be the fountain of each soul;  
 springing up in new creation,  
 flow in us and make us whole.

*Lent 4*

Give us eyes to see you clearly;  
 make us children of your light.  
 Give us hearts to live more nearly  
 as your gospel shining bright.

*Lent 5*

God of all our fear and sorrow,  
 God who lives beyond our death,  
 hold us close through each tomorrow,  
 love as near as every breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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## APOSTLES' CREED

Assisting Minister: With the whole church let us profess our faith,  
**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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by  
 God's presence, let us pray for the world and  
 its needs.

*We pray for the greater  
 church.*

Assisting Minister: Grant life and peace to all who gather in your  
 name. Breathe into us so that we may share  
 your message of forgiveness, hope, and love.  
 Hear us, O God.

**Assembly:** **Your mercy is great.**

*We pray for creation.*

Assisting Minister: Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper  
 the work of those who restore homes and  
 habitats after natural disasters, and sustain  
 places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O  
 God.

**Assembly:** **Your mercy is great.**

*We pray for justice.*

Assisting Minister: Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

**Assembly: Your mercy is great.**

*We pray for those in need.*

Assisting Minister: Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). Hear us, O God.

**Assembly: Your mercy is great.**

*We pray for this congregation.*

Assisting Minister: You call your people into new seasons of ministry. As we prepare for our Call Sunday on April 12, guide and sustain the pastoral candidate who is discerning this call. Bless the people of this congregation as we pray, listen, and prepare for the future you are unfolding among us. Unite us in your Spirit and lead us with wisdom and hope. Hear us, O God.

**Assembly: Your mercy is great.**

*We remember the saints.*

Assisting Minister: We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God.

**Assembly: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Assembly: Amen.**

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

**THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Assembly: And also with you.**

*Please sit.*

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*A Lenten Prayer*  
Sanctuary Choir

by Antonio Salieri

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Assembly: **Amen.**



**WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE**



## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

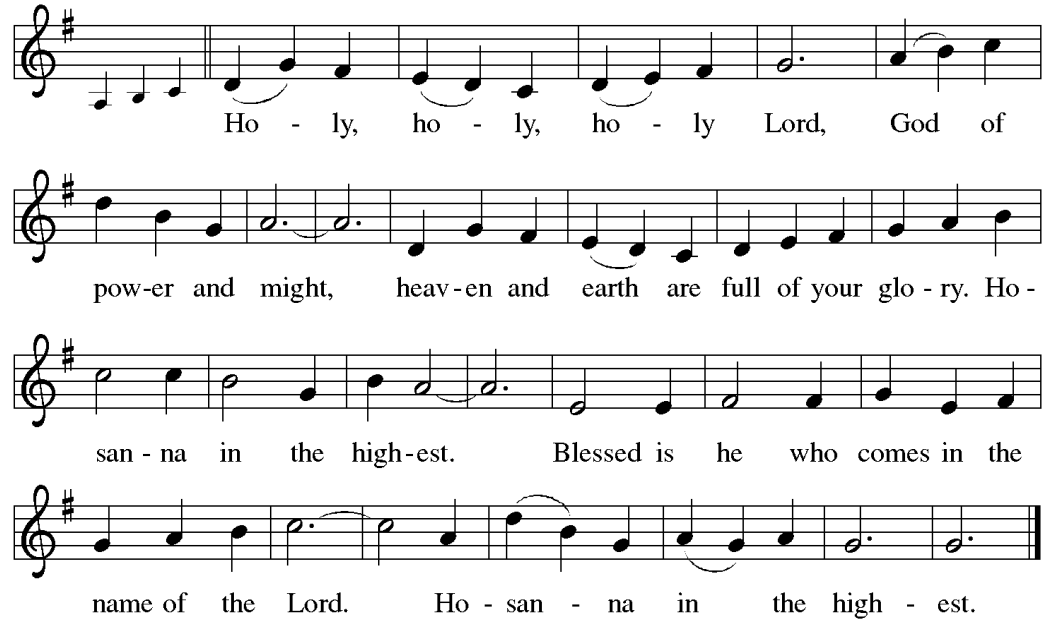
Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 Assembly: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

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

### SANCTUS (Setting 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.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray with confidence the prayer Jesus taught us.  
 Assembly: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.  
 Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please sit.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*This is Christ's table of welcome. Jesus invites **all** who are hungry and thirsty for unconditional love and acceptance to come to God's banquet. The ushers will direct you forward at the appropriate time. Communion will be by station. The pastor will be in the center with the bread. All the bread we use here is gluten free. 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. The ushers will direct you forward.*

**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.

*These communion hymns together form a journey of trust in the midst of life's deepest struggles. "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," written by Thomas A. Dorsey after the loss of his wife and child, gives voice to grief while placing that sorrow into God's care, echoing the tears of Mary and Martha at Lazarus's tomb. "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land," rooted in the African American spiritual tradition, proclaims Christ as a steady*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

(ELW 773)

**Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
2 When my way grows . . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . . near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
when my life is . . . al - most . . . gone,  
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.  
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

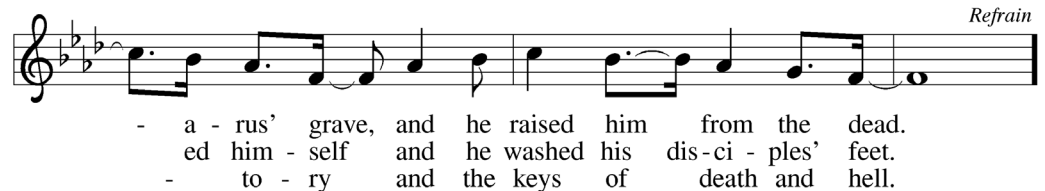
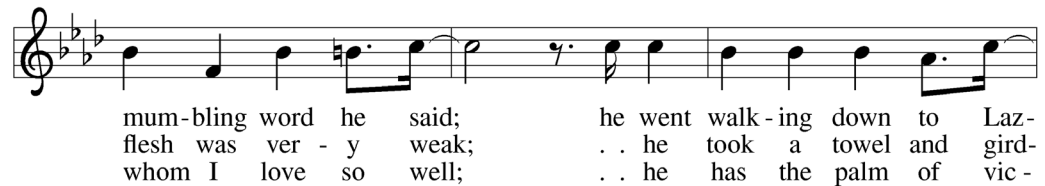
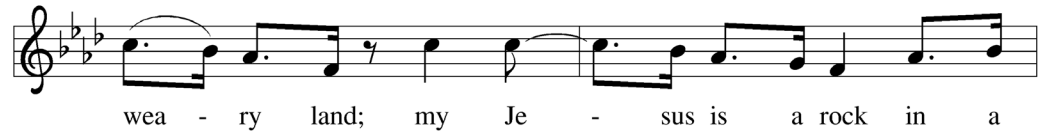
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

refuge when all else feels uncertain, much like God's promise to bring life back to dry bones. "Jesus, Remember Me," from the Taizé community, offers a simple, repeated prayer of surrender and hope, trusting that Christ holds us even in death. Together, these hymns reflect the promise of Romans 8: that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the life God gives in Christ.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(ELW 333)

## Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land



Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual



**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

(ELW 616)

**Jesus, Remember Me**

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community  
 Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
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*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. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Assembly:** **Amen.**



## WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



*This sending hymn boldly proclaims the heart of today's message: Christ is life itself. Echoing Jesus' words in the Gospel ("I am the resurrection and the life") the hymn celebrates the power of God to bring life out of death. In Ezekiel, breath enters dry bones; in Romans, the Spirit gives life to mortal bodies; in John, Lazarus is called from the tomb. As we are sent from worship, this hymn reminds us that we go out as people of the resurrection, carrying the promise of new life into a world still longing for hope.*

*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.*

### SENDING HYMN

(ACS 927)

### Christ Is the Life



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,  
 2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,  
 3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,  
 4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.  
 who wel - comes us from well-worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.  
 whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.  
 cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans-form-ing burn-ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,  
 Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,  
 Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,  
 Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.  
 whose prom-ise in the gen - tle dark bids new-ness to ap - pear.  
 for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh-old of new life.  
 and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien  
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English melody

Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

### BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

**Assembly:** Amen.

### DISMISSAL

**Assisting Minister:** Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Assembly:** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

## FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

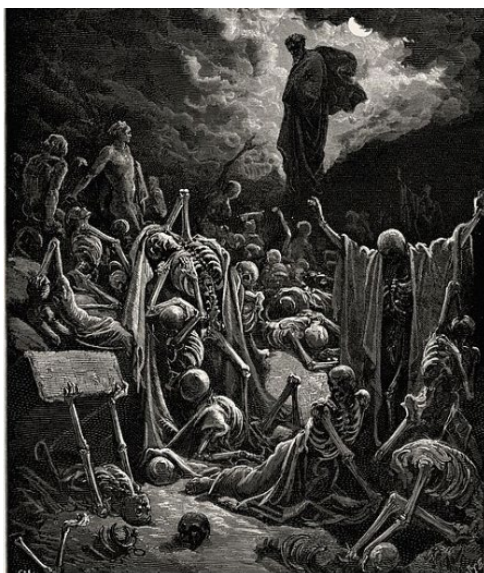
*[Augustine of Hippo, The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, trans. and ed. M. F. Toal (Chicago: Regnery, 1963), IV: 119-120.]*

From “The Three Whom Jesus Raised to Life,” Augustine’s sermon on the narratives of Jesus raising the dead daughter of the synagogue leader, the widow’s son, and Lazarus:

It may be that even now I am speaking to such folk as Lazarus, buried under the unyielding stone of habit and who are dead four days and stinking. Yet not even they must despair: they are dead, in the depths; but Christ is on high. He knows, by crying out with a loud voice, how to destroy these heavy loads; he know how, through himself, to raise the soul within to life, giving it to his disciples to loose. . . . So let those who are living, live; and those who are dead, in whichever of these three deaths they find themselves, let them act at once, to rise here and now from the dead.

—Augustine of Hippo

*A striking nineteenth-century depiction of Ezekiel’s vision is by Paul Gustave Doré. If you don’t want all these bones, try this painting from 1310 by Duccio di Buoninsegna of Christ raising Lazarus. Jesus is shown wearing royal red, and both Mary and Martha are present.*



## **THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS**

**Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758**

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

**Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of San Salvador, martyr, died 1980**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

**Annunciation of Our Lord**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

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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.

## **STAFF**

Phone: (703) 437-1883

Website: [www.HolyCrossHerndon.org](http://www.HolyCrossHerndon.org)

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/HCLCHerndon](http://www.Facebook.com/HCLCHerndon)

Instagram: [www.Instagram.com/HolyCrossELCA](http://www.Instagram.com/HolyCrossELCA)

YouTube: [www.YouTube.com/c/HolyCrossLutheranChurchHerndonVA](http://www.YouTube.com/c/HolyCrossLutheranChurchHerndonVA)

Email: [Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org)

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

(585) 748-2848

[MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org)

Marie Edwards Nelson, Church Administrator

(703) 437-1883

Sarah Schulmeyer, Church Administrator

[Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org)

Marie Edwards Nelson, Bookkeeper

[Bookkeeper@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Bookkeeper@HolyCrossHerndon.org)

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Cara Swanson Papenheim, President

(571) 481-6281

[President@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:President@HolyCrossHerndon.org)

Mark Roe, Vice President

(202) 615-8495

[VicePresident@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:VicePresident@HolyCrossHerndon.org)

Jo Roe, Secretary

(703) 477-3509

[Secretary@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Secretary@HolyCrossHerndon.org)

Bob Thompson, Treasurer

(703) 795-3662

[Treasurer@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Treasurer@HolyCrossHerndon.org)