

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 8, 2026

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

# Weekly Update



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

**Sunday, March 8, 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)  
Roseanne Heim (family member of Suzanne Flegal)  
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)  
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)  
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)  
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)  
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)  
Sue Mason (sister of Pam Darby)  
Sharon Massen & Dorie Miller (friends of Craig Reichow)  
Lisa Nolf and Laizu (friends of Jared Lem)  
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)  
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)  
Tracy Radican (daughter of former HCLC pastor, Pastor Harper)  
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark & 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 Shirley Beamer (friend of Pam Darby)  
Family & friends of Jan Minatre (cousin of Craig Reichow)  
Family & friends of Twyleah Mitcham (sister-in-law of Rev. Pam Mitcham)  
Family & friends of B. David Taylor (father of Catherine Taylor)*

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>: Third Sunday in Lent

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

### Serving March 15<sup>th</sup>: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Assisting Minister:	Anne Geiger
Reader:	Helen Wolfe
Acolyte:	Gary Wolfe
Greeter:	Jared Lem

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: MAR 8 – MAR 15

SU 8	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship –Third Sunday in Lent
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	H.U.G.S. Group ~ Conference Rm
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 10	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 11	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 12	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
SA 14	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
SU 15	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Fourth Sunday in Lent
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

# 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.**

## H.U.G.S



Today, Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, H.U.G.S will be meeting **after the worship service**, in the **conference room**. If you're grieving, feeling alone, or simply looking for connection with others who understand this journey, you are warmly invited to join us. All are welcome.

## LINK MOBILE FOOD PANTRY – MARCH

Holy Cross is hosting a LINK Food Distribution Event to support 300 families in the Herndon area on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Lots of help is needed with unloading and packing the



food on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Additional help is needed on Saturday with directing traffic, moving food bags from inside the church to the front walk, and loading bags into clients' automobiles. To sign up to help, go here: [tinyurl.com/34rmvr44](https://tinyurl.com/34rmvr44)

### Time slots include:

Friday, 3/20 | 9 am-12 pm, 3-5 pm, 7-9 pm  
Saturday, 3/21 | 8-11 am

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – LENT SESSION

Each Sunday throughout Lent, the adult Sunday School class will focus on the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus on the cross as described in the Gospel of John. The class meets at 9:00 in the Conference Room—all are welcome.

## LENT MIDWEEK DINNER CHURCH SERVICES WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00 PM (THROUGH MAR. 25)

You're invited to join us for midweek Lenten worship and fellowship! We will gather each Wednesday through March 25. The evening begins with **dinner and fellowship at 6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall, followed by **worship at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. All are welcome as we share this meaningful season together.

2026 Lenten Appeal  
Fellowship House  
A Ministry Close to Home



## Fellowship Square

## 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>

## LINK DONATIONS

LINK needs items, including **jelly**, to support local families in our community. Please consider adding a jar (or two!) to your grocery list and bring donations on **Sunday, March 15th**. Thank you for your continued generosity and care for our neighbors in need.

## EASTER BRUNCH POTLUCK



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

## NOTARY SERVICES

Marie (one of our Church Administrators) is now providing notary services for members of the congregation. If you are in need of a document notarized, please contact the office to make arrangements ([Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org) or 703-437-1883). She is happy to assist!

## **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.*

Third Sunday in Lent  
March 8, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM

*Those who designed the three-year lectionary anticipated that the church of the future will resemble the church of the fourth century, more than that of the nineteenth. In the fourth century, Lent was understood as the time for catechumens to prepare for baptism at Easter, and baptismal preparation included meditation on the Johannine discourses about the meaning of Christ for the baptized community. Thus Lent in Year A revives the pattern of proclaiming the Johannine signs and discourses as a way to interpret baptism and the new life of the resurrection.*



**WE GATHER**



## 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.**

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.**

## 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**

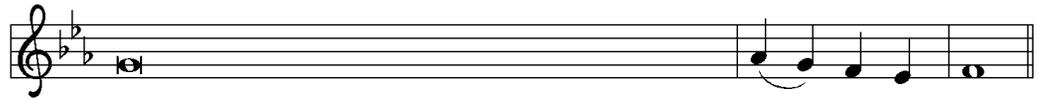
(Setting 1)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



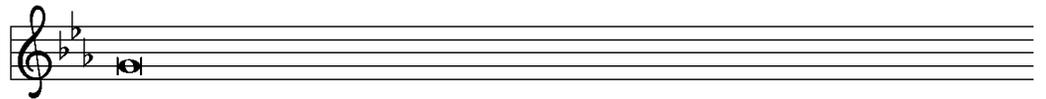
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



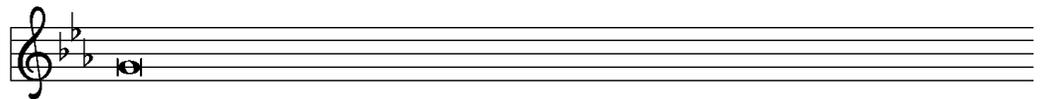
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

*Composed for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the prayer of the day is inspired by all three readings. Our prayer joins us to Abram, who was guided by God into a new life; to Paul, who urges us to faith in God's promises; and to Nicodemus, who is called to new birth in God.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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

Genesis 12:1-4a

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

**Reader:** A reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

**Reader:** Word of God, word of life.

**Assembly:** Thanks be to God.

*As with many of the lectionary's first readings, Genesis 12 is chosen to parallel the gospel reading. Jesus calls on Nicodemus to be born again, and in parallel, we recall the story of the Lord calling Abram to begin a new life in a new land in the sight of God.*

*As is usual with the second readings for about half of the church year, this second reading is chosen to coordinate with the first reading and the gospel. Romans is seen as particularly appropriate for Lent; thus four of the Lenten epistle readings come from Romans. On this Sunday, Paul's commentary on Abraham presents the Christian interpretation of the call of Abram: God blessed Abraham, not because he obeyed the Jewish law, but because he had faith in the promises of God, the same faith into which Nicodemus and all the baptized are invited.*

## SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

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

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

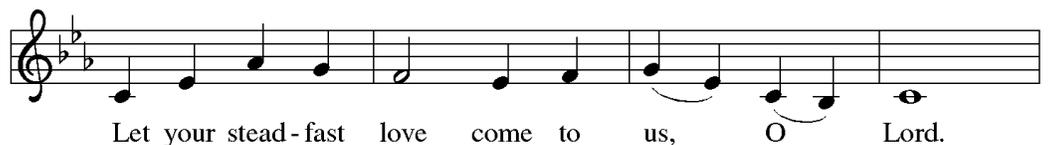
Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Setting 1)



*The four Lenten Johannine discourses begin with Jesus' teaching about being born again. Until the nineteenth century, the church understood "being born again" as referring to baptism. In Lent, catechumens are prepared for Easter baptism, and the community, as Martin Luther says, daily crawls back to the font, to be renewed in the promises of this second birth.*

## **GOSPEL**

John 3:1-17

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

**Pastor:** The Gospel according to John the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.  
**Assembly:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

*Please sit.*

## SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

(ACS 922)

## God Loved the World

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

## 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: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer  
 for the church, the world, and all those in  
 need.

*We pray for the greater  
 church.*

*(Learn more about George  
 Herbert on page 21)*

Assisting Minister: Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you  
 have inspired faith through the work of church  
 artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages  
 like George Herbert whom the church  
 remembers today, give your church the means  
 to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.  
**Assembly:** **Your mercy is great.**

*We pray for creation.*

Assisting Minister: Living One, you delight in this world. The sun  
 and moon, the wind and the water declare your  
 goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect  
 conservationists, scientists, and all who labor  
 in service to creation. Hear us, O God.  
**Assembly:** **Your mercy is great.**

*We pray for justice.*

Assisting Minister: Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Assembly: Your mercy is great.**

*We pray for those in need.*

Assisting Minister: Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). We pray for the innocent lives being lost in Iran; surround the vulnerable with your protection, comfort those who mourn, and guide all nations toward justice and lasting peace. Hear us, O God.

**Assembly: Your mercy is great.**

*We pray for this congregation.*

Assisting Minister: Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

**Assembly: Your mercy is great.**

*We remember the saints.*

Assisting Minister: Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. 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***God So Loved the World*

by Thomas Keesecker

Sanctuary Choir; Matthew Andersen, guitar

*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.

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a guitar accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first system begins with a 4-measure rest for the vocal line. The lyrics are: '4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a'. The second system continues the lyrics: 'pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,'. The third system concludes the lyrics: 'so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.' The guitar accompaniment features chords and arpeggiated patterns throughout.

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)



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**PRELUDE***At the Cross Love Ran Red*

by Chris Tomlin

Matthew Andersen, guitar/voice

**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

Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*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



### SENDING HYMN

### Surely God Is My Salvation



1 Sure - ly God is my sal - va - tion,  
 2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter  
 3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,



I will trust and shall not fear. God the Lord is  
 from sal - va - tion's wells and springs. Sing your thanks to  
 make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the



strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.  
 God Al - might - y for these won - drous deeds.  
 God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

#### *Refrain*



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

Text: Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979, based on Isaiah 12:2-6  
 Music: YISREAL V'ORAITA, Hasidic melody  
 Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
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**

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

## FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

*[Zeno of Verona, in Baptism: Ancient Liturgies and Patristic Texts, ed. A Hamman OFM (Staten Island, NY: Alba, 1967), 64-66.]*

Exult with joy in Christ. For now the saving warmth of the eternal font invites you. Now your mother adopts you to make you her child. Thanks to your faith, the wave of rebirth has already begotten you. Run, then, forward to the mother who experiences no pains of labor, although she cannot count the number of those to whom she gives birth. Happily you are going to drink the new milk together. Fly to the fountain, to the sweet womb of your mother.

—*Zeno of Verona*

*In this stained glass window depicting Moses and the snake, note that the snake is wound around a cross.*



## **THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS**

**George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633**

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

**John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church**

**Monday, March 2, 2026**

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

**Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202**

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

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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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