

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 19, 2026

*Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.*

# Weekly Update



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

**Sunday, April 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

### 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)  
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)  
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)  
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 and friends of Silas Kulkarni (Cousin of Tibbie Preston)*

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

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

### Serving April 19<sup>th</sup>: Third Sunday of Easter

Assisting Minister: Anne Geiger  
Reader: Vivian Jefferson  
Acolyte: Diana Virgo  
Greeter: Vivian Jefferson

### Serving April 26<sup>th</sup>: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Assisting Minister: TBD  
Reader: Nannette Lem  
Acolyte: Anne Geiger  
Greeter: Rob Coffman

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: APR 19 – APR 26

SU 19	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Kingdom Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Third Sunday of Easter
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ 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
W 22	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	7:00 pm	ELL ~ Education Wing
TH 23	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
SA 25	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist ~ FH
	7:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Tovon Funeral ~ FH
SU 26	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Kingdom Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Fourth Sunday of Easter
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

## LENTEN APPEAL – FELLOWSHIP SQUARE



Today is the last day to give to the Lenten Appeal. 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 FOOD PANTRY

Don't forget to pick up a grocery bag for your donation to LINK on the first and third Sundays! They are located in the narthex. Filled bags can be dropped off in the LINK box in the narthex or placed on the altar during the offering.



Volunteers are needed to deliver bags to the LINK pantry after services. Go to the following link or scan the QR code to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/2wfyue7t>

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

As Easter arrives, so does the celebration of flowers in the sanctuary, reminding us of God's enduring faithfulness.

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.



## HOME COMMUNION

If you or a loved one is unable to attend worship due to illness, age, or mobility issues, and would like to receive Communion, you can schedule a visit by contacting the office at [Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org) or 703-437-1883.

## THANK YOU! CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We're grateful to everyone who helped make our Congregational Meeting run smoothly, and ensured our candidate felt warmly welcomed and appreciated.

 **Lunch for the Soul** 

Next HCLC Host Date: Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>



## LUNCH FOR THE SOUL

### SAVE THE DATE



Breakfast for lunch? Lunch for the Soul will be serving up breakfast at our next host day on Wednesday, May 6! Sign up to come early (9:30 am) to help prepare pancakes, sausage, and more. We'll also need regular items like water, fruit, and toppings. **Keep an eye out for the upcoming sign-up**, and join us for a fun time in the kitchen!

## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Stay connected through prayer by receiving a weekly email with a current prayer list and updates on those in need. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Want to sign up to receive prayer emails? Scan the QR code to the right.



Want to submit a name to be prayed for? Email [PrayerChain@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:PrayerChain@HolyCrossHerndon.org) with the person's name and a few sentences about why they need to be prayed for. Be aware that any information provided will be published in the emails going out to people praying.

## **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 of Easter**  
April 19, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM

*Easter continues. Each year, the gospel on the third Sunday of Easter is a resurrection appearance. All three readings for this Sunday include references to early Christian worship.*



**WE GATHER**



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Thine is the Glory*

arr. Lani Smith

Marcia Kratzke, piano; Jeremy Shoop, organ

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen

Assembly: **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Pastor: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

Assembly: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.  
Blessed are you.  
**Assembly:** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.  
**Assembly:** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Pastor: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.  
**Assembly:** **Amen.**



We gather this morning singing "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!" to remember that we are an Easter people and celebrate Easter for seven weeks. The text of today's gathering hymn is interesting in that, as in other texts by Herbert F. Brokering, it is a stream of consciousness. There are many phrases expressing various themes of the Easter story such as Trumpets, light, splendor, Lamb, the Emmaus road (today's gospel), eyes opened, shouts of Alleluia, and eternal life in paradise. Stanza five contains themes from Revelation with references to the saints and angels singing never ending praises to God. Combined with a tune that is simply fun to sing, Brokering's beautifully poetic text is a rather festive way to celebrate our risen Lord.

GATHERING HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
 Assembly: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

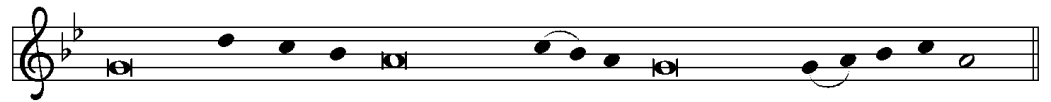
(Setting 9)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



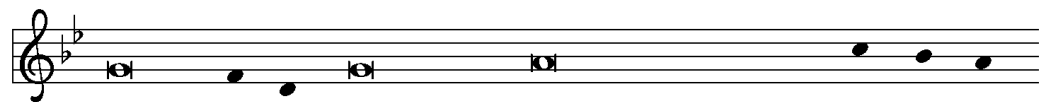
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



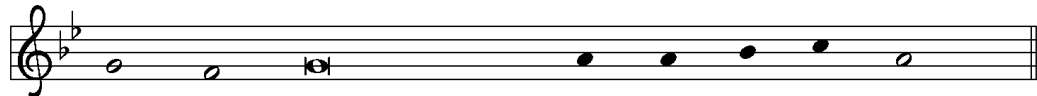
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

(Setting 9)



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of  
 all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The prayer of the day, adapted from the 1945 Book of Common Prayer, joins us at table with the disciples in Emmaus. We pray that the eyes of our faith will be opened to see Christ here with us today.*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:**

Let us pray. O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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

*The miracle of the resurrection continues, as thousands of people repent, believe, and are baptized. As usual, Luke sees the purposes of this conversion to be the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are now this baptized community, assembling weekly for this apostolic teaching, the meal with the risen Christ, and our prayers.*

*According to this heavily metaphoric post-baptismal sermon, we are now the exile community that in Christ is judged, ransomed, purified, and born anew. The word grows in us each week, and the blood of Christ buys us back from the power of death.*

#### FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

Reader:                    A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader:                    Word of God, word of life.

Assembly:                **Thanks be to God.**

#### SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

Reader:                    A reading from the first letter of Peter:

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from

your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

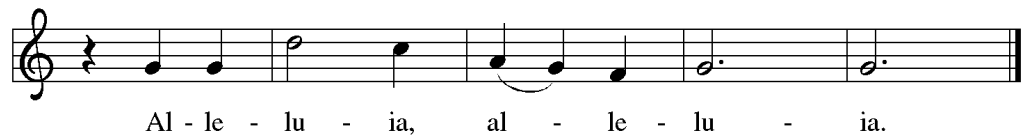
<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*The Emmaus story illustrates the weekly assembly of Christians, who first search through Moses and the prophets to hear about the messiah and who then share a meal and, in so doing, recognize the risen Christ. In keeping with Luke's many parallels between the sexes, some contemporary*

### GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

Pastor: The Gospel according to Luke the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name

*artists depict the two disciples as a man and a woman. This Sunday in our congregations, we find Christ in the scriptures and recognize Christ at our table.*

was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”<sup>19</sup> He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.<sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,<sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.<sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”<sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”<sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.<sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

*Please sit.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

We sing "Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom" today as we celebrate Earth Day and our Churchyard Wildlife Habitat program. This vibrant text delights in the creativity and diversity of God's creation. With a sense of joy and even a bit of playful humor, it draws our attention to the astonishing variety of life that surrounds us and reflects the boundless imagination of the Creator.

As we join our voices in this hymn, we are invited not only to marvel at creation, from the smallest creatures to the most unexpected, but also to recognize our place within it. The text reminds us that **all** of creation is worthy of wonder, care, and praise. It connects beautifully to our work in cultivating and sustaining our own churchyard as a place of welcome for wildlife.

Singing this hymn, then, becomes more than an act of praise, it is a celebration of our shared calling to cherish, protect, and

## HYMN OF THE DAY

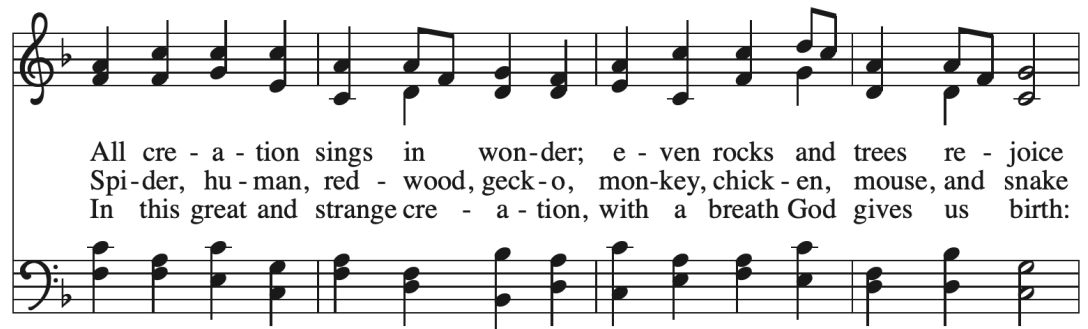
### Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,  
 2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.  
 3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.  
 Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.  
 cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice  
 Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake  
 In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.  
 live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.  
 born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

*delight in the world  
God has made. After  
all, how often do you  
get to sing about  
penguins, platypus,  
and geckos in  
worship?*

## CREATION CARE LITANY

**Pastor:** Author of creation, in wisdom you brought forth all that is, to participate in your divine being, and to change, adapt, and grow in freedom. You make holy the matter and energy of the universe that it may delight you and give you praise.

**Assisting Minister:** We thank you for gathering all creation into your heart by the energy of your Spirit and bringing it through death to resurrection glory. Let us bless the Lord.

**Assembly:** **Thanks be to God!**

**Pastor:** Holy God, your mercy is over all your works, and in the web of life each creature has its role and place.

**Assisting Minister:** We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale; we honor you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh. Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance. Let us bless the Lord.

**Assembly:** **Thanks be to God!**

**Pastor:** Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care.

**Assisting Minister:** We seek to glorify your name at Holy Cross Lutheran Church as we care for your creation on our property. May our church grounds provide food, water, and shelter for wildlife. Sustain our efforts to care for your creation in a way that brings new life to the world. Let us bless the Lord.

**Assembly:** **Thanks be to God!**

**Pastor:** Gracious God, grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and

guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Assembly:**           **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Assisting Minister:   Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*We pray for the greater church.*

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,

**Assembly:**           **receive our prayer.**

*We pray for creation.*

Assisting Minister:   Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,

**Assembly:**           **receive our prayer.**

*We pray for justice.*

Assisting Minister:   God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

**Assembly:**           **receive our prayer.**

*We pray for those in need.*

Assisting Minister:   Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,

**Assembly:**           **receive our prayer.**

*We pray for this congregation.*

Assisting Minister: Gracious One, we give you thanks for guiding Holy Cross Lutheran Church through a season of discernment and for calling Pastor Eric to serve among us. Fill him with your Spirit as he prepares to lead. Prepare our hearts to receive his ministry with joy, trust, and openness. Knit us together in faith and love, that together we may follow where you are leading and share the good news of Jesus Christ in this community. Merciful God,  
**Assembly: receive our prayer.**

*We remember the saints.*

Assisting Minister: Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Merciful God,  
**Assembly: receive our prayer.**

Pastor: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Assembly: Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Assembly: And also with you.**

*Please sit.*

### **OFFERING**

#### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died*  
 Sanctuary Choir

arr. William Allen Pasch

*Please stand as you are able.*

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

## OFFERTORY

(Stanza 4)

## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

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)



### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## 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: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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.*

## 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.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN


### Morning Has Broken



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has  
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet  
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry




morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!



*“Morning Has Broken,” invites us to notice creation not in grand gestures, but in the quiet gift of a new day. The text, written by Eleanor Farjeon in the early 20th century, reflects a childlike sense of wonder at the ordinary rhythms of life: morning light, birdsong, and fresh beginnings. Paired with a traditional Gaelic melody, the hymn gained widespread recognition through its association with Cat Stevens in the 1970s, though its roots are much older. As we celebrate our Churchyard Wildlife Habitat, this hymn gently opens our eyes to the sacredness woven into the natural world around us.*

*From that sense of wonder, "Touch the Earth Lightly" moves us into a call to care. Written by Shirley Erena Murray, this text is both lyrical and prophetic, reminding us that the earth is not ours to dominate, but a gift entrusted to us. The imagery is vivid and immediate, drawing us into a relationship of responsibility and reverence. Its gentle yet persistent tone mirrors the work of tending a habitat: intentional, patient, and grounded in love for what God has made. In the context of today's celebration, this hymn gives voice to our shared calling to nurture and protect the life that surrounds us.*

## Touch the Earth Lightly



1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour - ish the life of the world in our care:  
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
 wa - ter that bless - es and air that is sweet,  
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,  
 we who would fos - ter clouds of di - sas - ter—  
 health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
 teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
 us - ing us gent - ly and mak - ing us one.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray  
 MUSIC: Lim Swee Hong

Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company  
 Music © 2005 Hope Publishing Company

爱护 AI HU  
 5.5.10.D.



Finally, “God of the Sparrow” widens the lens, holding together the beauty and the complexity of creation. The text by Jaroslav Vajda (author of many beloved hymns, including “Borning Cry”) is structured as a series of questions naming creatures, human experiences, and even tensions within the world, and asking what God is doing in and through them. Set to a haunting and memorable melody by Carl F. Schalk, the hymn invites us into deeper reflection: the same God who delights in sparrows and seas is also at work in our lives, calling us into faith, service, and compassion. As we come to the table, this hymn gathers our wonder and our responsibility into prayer, reminding us that we are part of the very creation God continues to love and redeem.

## God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing  
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -



stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
 blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
 grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
 gal How does the crea - ture say Care



How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor  
 God of the foe  
 God of the pruning hook  
 How does the creature say Love  
 How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages  
 God near at hand  
 God of the loving heart  
 How do your children say Joy  
 How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919  
 Music: ROEDER, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
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 Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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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. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**Assembly:** Amen.



## WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



*“This Is My Father’s World” is a hymn of praise for God’s creation. The hymn was written by a Presbyterian minister. He would often walk out to his backyard and look at Lake Ontario telling his wife, “I am going out to see my Father’s world.” Babcock’s text is greatly enhanced by Franklin Sheppard’s setting of the traditional English folk tune TERRA PATRIS.*

### SENDING HYMN

### This Is My Father’s World

1 This is my Fa-ther’s world, and to my lis-t’ning ears all  
 2 This is my Fa-ther’s world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
 3 This is my Fa-ther’s world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er’s praise.  
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther’s world; I rest me in the thought of  
 This is my Fa-ther’s world; he shines in all that’s fair. In the  
 This is my Fa-ther’s world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-’ry-where.  
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever.

**Assembly: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Assembly: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**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.*

**ATTRIBUTIONS:**

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## THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

**Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church  
Sunday, April 19, 2026**

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

**Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109  
Tuesday, April 21, 2026**

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

**El Día de la Creación (Day of the Creation) (LLC)  
Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

**Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960  
Thursday, April 23, 2026**

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

**Mark, Evangelist  
Saturday, April 25, 2026**

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

## FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

*[Evelyn Underhill, Mediations and Prayers (London: Longman, Green and Com., 1949), 14, 17, 20.]*

Lord! Open our eyes that we may behold thee. Open our ears that they may recognize thy voice. Not in some special religious experience, some great moment or wonderful service or perfect setting, but just as we go along the common road. Come to us with your living touch on events; your sacred hand opening the scriptures. You have the words of eternal life. Lord! Give us courage and love to open the door and constrain you to enter, offer all my resources, whatever the disguise you come in, even before I fully recognize my guest. Come in! Enter my small life! When out of the heart of my own homely circumstances you feed me, then my eyes are open to the presence I long for and can never understand. Come and abide with me! Meet me, walk with me! Enter my humble life with its poverty and its limitations as you entered the stable of Bethlehem, the workshop of Nazareth, the cottage of Emmaus. Bless and consecrate the material of that small and ordinary life. Feed and possess my soul!

—*Evelyn Underhill*

*The contemporary Chinese artist He Qi painted a depiction of Emmaus that has been reproduced on page 89 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. At the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, this image was hung behind the altar to remind us that when we participate in holy communion, we are joining the disciples at Emmaus to meet the risen Christ. Note that in the twentieth century some Christian artists have depicted one of the two disciples to be a woman.*



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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