

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Weekly Update



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

Sunday, February 1, 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

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

*Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Randy and Shirley Beamer (friends of Pam Darby)
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)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Jason Greenwalt (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
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 Swancutt (sister of Lynn Russo)
Steven Swancutt (brother of Lynn Russo)
Dianna and Bill Tilton (friends of Jared & Nannette Lem)
Diana Todd (friend of the Russos)
Pastor Luis Velasquez (Lunch for the Soul)
Michelle White (friend and coworker of Kate Flegal)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

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

Serving February 1st: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Assisting Minister: Anne Geiger
Reader: Alex Frederick
Acolyte: TBD
Greeter: Jared Lem

Serving February 8th: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Assisting Minister: Andy Krueger
Reader: Nannette Lem
Acolyte: TBD
Greeter: Jared Lem

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: FEB 1 – FEB 8

SU 1	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
	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 3	6:30 pm	Fiber Arts Group ~ Conference Rm
	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 4	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	7:00 pm	ELL ~ Education Wing
TH 5	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
SA 7	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	9:30 am	Stephen Ministry Supervision
SU 8	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	Stephen Ministry Training
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

LINK MOBILE FOOD PANTRY – FEBRUARY

Holy Cross is hosting a LINK Food Distribution Event to support 300 families in the Herndon area on Saturday, February 21st. Lots of help is needed with unloading and packing the food on Friday, February 20th. 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/LINK-Dist-Feb.



Time slots include:

Friday, 2/20 | 9 am-12 pm, 3-5 pm, 7-9 pm
 Saturday, 2/21 | 8-11 am



We need your help to serve our neighbors in need through this caring ministry! Holy Cross provides lunch on the first Wednesday of every month, and your support in cooking, serving, or cleanup is always welcome. Our next opportunity to serve is on Wednesday, February 4th. Please consider joining us! You can sign up at: perfectpotluck.com/YEEI1717 or scan the QR code.



Sometimes prayer can seem challenging. Sometimes we think we are praying “wrong.” But prayer is just a conversation with God. Join the Adult Sunday School class in looking at several stories about Jesus that can help us pray. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the conference room. All are welcome.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who chipped in at the last minute to make worship possible on snowy Sunday this past week! We’re also deeply grateful to those who went the extra mile to clear additional snow from our property, making parking and walking safer and more accessible for all.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



You are invited to our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras celebration!** Pancakes with all the toppings you can imagine, sausage, king cakes, and more will be hot and ready for you to enjoy. (*GF and vegan options will be available.*)

Stick around for some lighthearted fun as we play **Pancake Flip Relay, Toppings Toss, and Shrove Tuesday Trivia**—games for all ages and skill levels! We are excited to report that **The Royal Flush** will again be in attendance. A Mardi Gras parade around the Fellowship Hall to “*Oh, When the Saints Come Marching In*” will bring the evening to a joyful close.

Questions?

Jeremy (MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org)
 Cecilia (YouthChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org)
 Beverly (FellowshipChair@HolyCrossHerndon.org)

H.U.G.S



Today, Sunday, February 1st, 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.

TREASURERS REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

<u>December 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date – 2025</u>
Operating Fund	Operating Fund
Income: \$ 49,406.66	Income: \$ 388,377.77
Expenses: \$ 29,387.16	Expenses: \$ 391,497.07
Net Balance: +\$ 20,019.50	Net Balance: -\$3,159.30

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.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM

In most of the standard Sundays after the Epiphany and after Trinity Sunday, Year A reads through significant passages in the gospel of Matthew. Most of the Sermon on the Mount is appointed. Jesus Christ has come among us, and Christians are called to adopt the transformed life described in the Sermon on the Mount.

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.



WE GATHER



GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Mighty God, lover of justice,
Assembly: **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us**

the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Pastor:

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Assembly:

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

(ELW #669)

A theme of justice flows throughout today's service. We start of worship with "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" to remind us that we are called to live out actions of justice towards those in need. This hymn echoes the last verses of today's reading from the prophet Micah, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
 Text © Norman O. Forness, 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 12)

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

(Setting 12)

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

The prayer of the day is based on prayer #190 in the 1993 Presbyterian Book of Common Worship. Its praise and petition echo the words of the three readings. Our living according to the values of the beatitudes shows the world the wisdom of Jesus Christ.

Christians recognize that Jesus' call to a life of justice follows in the Old Testament tradition, in which prophets spoke God's word of righteous living to a people who had received God's saving deeds. The Micah passage parallels the Beatitudes.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

Please sit.



LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

Reader: A reading from the prophet Micah:

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

Reader: A reading from Paul's first letter to the
Corinthians:

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ

The cross of Christ represents a paradoxical divine wisdom that is alien to the world's common understanding of reality. We stand within the righteousness that comes to us through the cross as we hear the stern Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Setting 12)

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

Our hearts burn with - in us as you open to us the scriptures.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

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

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Beatitudes describe the rigorous values that according to Matthew characterize the Christian life. In the service of the word, we hear Matthew’s description of life within God’s kingdom, and we turn for forgiveness and renewal in the service of holy communion. Jesus Christ is himself the embodiment of the Beatitudes.

SERMON

Please remain seated for the hymn of the day..

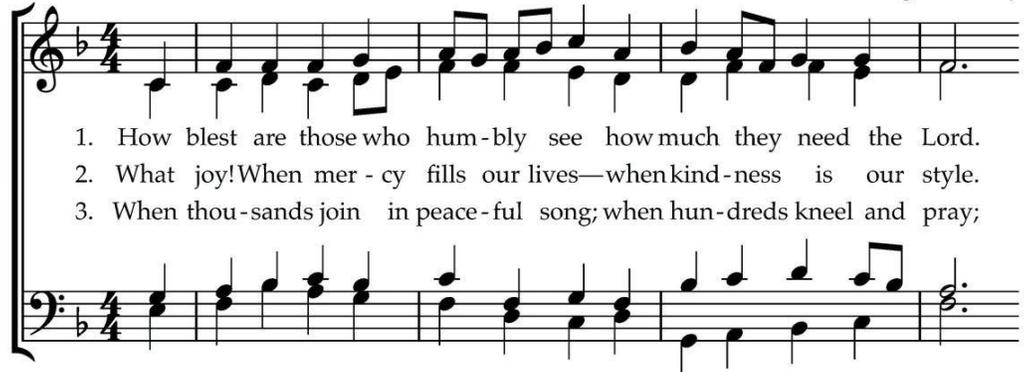
HYMN OF THE DAY

How Blest Are Those

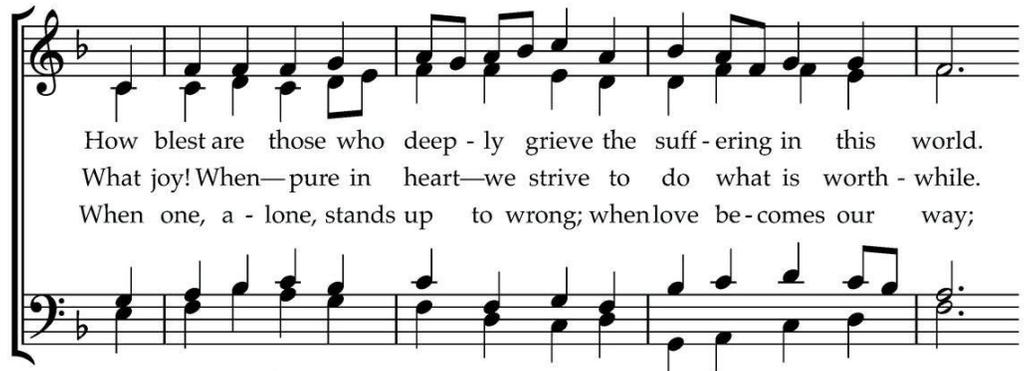
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026

Forest Green

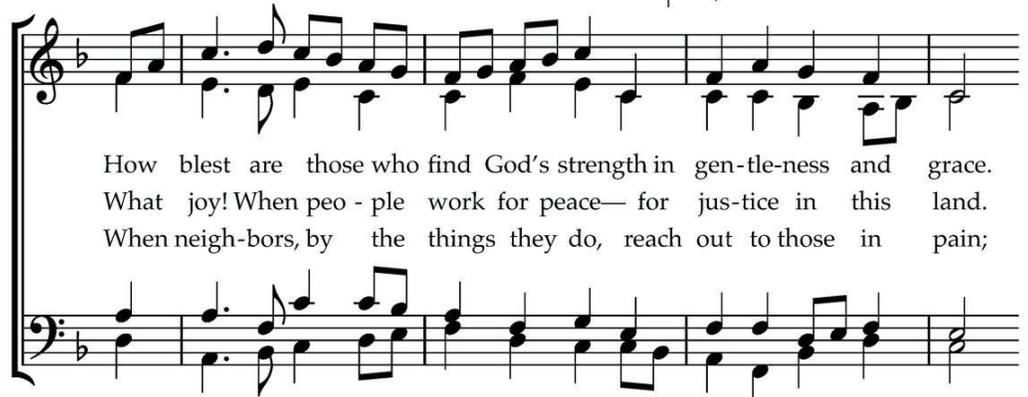
Traditional English Melody



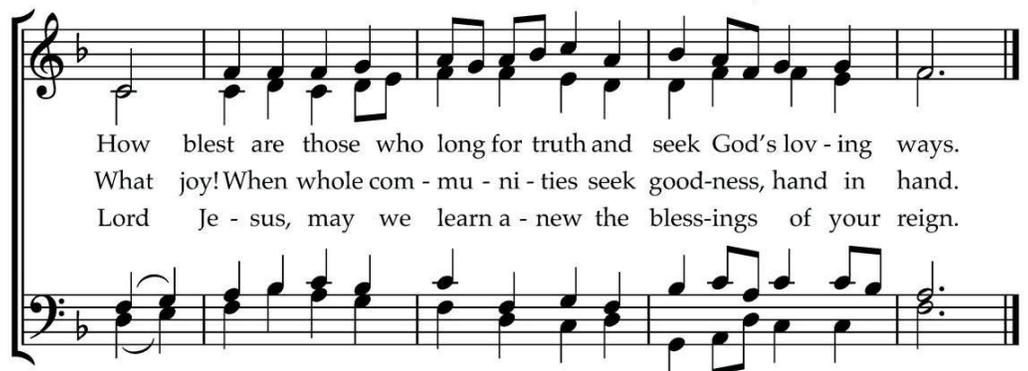
1. How blest are those who hum-bly see how much they need the Lord.
2. What joy! When mer - cy fills our lives—when kind-ness is our style.
3. When thou-sands join in peace-ful song; when hun-dreds kneel and pray;



How blest are those who deep - ly grieve the suff - ering in this world.
What joy! When—pure in heart—we strive to do what is worth - while.
When one, a - lone, stands up to wrong; when love be - comes our way;



How blest are those who find God's strength in gen-tle-ness and grace.
What joy! When peo - ple work for peace— for jus-tice in this land.
When neigh-bors, by the things they do, reach out to those in pain;



How blest are those who long for truth and seek God's lov - ing ways.
What joy! When whole com - mu - ni - ties seek good-ness, hand in hand.
Lord Je - sus, may we learn a - new the bless-ings of your reign.

Written by modern-day hymn writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, “How Blest Are Those” engages Jesus’ words from the Beatitudes as a vision for how God intends life to flourish in the world. Each stanza names a blessing Jesus proclaims (humility, mercy, peacemaking, courage, gentleness, and justice) and invites the church to reflect on how these blessings shape not only personal faith, but our shared life and witness.

Paired with the familiar English tune FOREST GREEN, the hymn brings together a timeless melody and a newly written text, allowing ancient teachings to speak with renewed clarity. The hymn reminds us that the Beatitudes are not passive ideals, but a calling to live faithfully in ways that affect our neighbors, our communities, and the common good, as we seek to embody God’s reign here and now.

PRESENTATION OF TROOP 12 CHARTER

Please stand.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

We pray for the greater church.

Assisting Minister: God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,

Assembly: receive our prayer.

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

Assembly: receive our prayer.

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,

Assembly: receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need.

Assisting Minister: God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). Merciful God,

Assembly: receive our prayer.

We pray for this community.

Assisting Minister: God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and

We pray for the saints.

Assembly: youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God,

Assembly: **receive our prayer.**

Pastor: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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.**

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

What Feast of Love

arr. Brian Wentzel

Sanctuary Choir

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

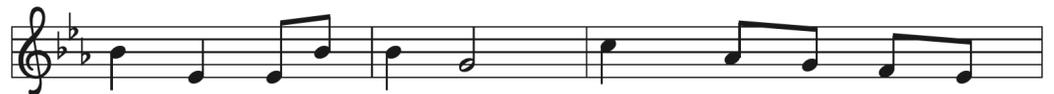
Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

SANCTUS

(Setting 12)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished.

This is the table where we who are broken are made whole. So, come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus gave thanks, took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying, "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and said, "This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

We ask, merciful God, that you send, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. Let that same Spirit rest on us, call us from the folly of this world, until in wisdom, we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

All this we ask through your son, Jesus Christ. By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

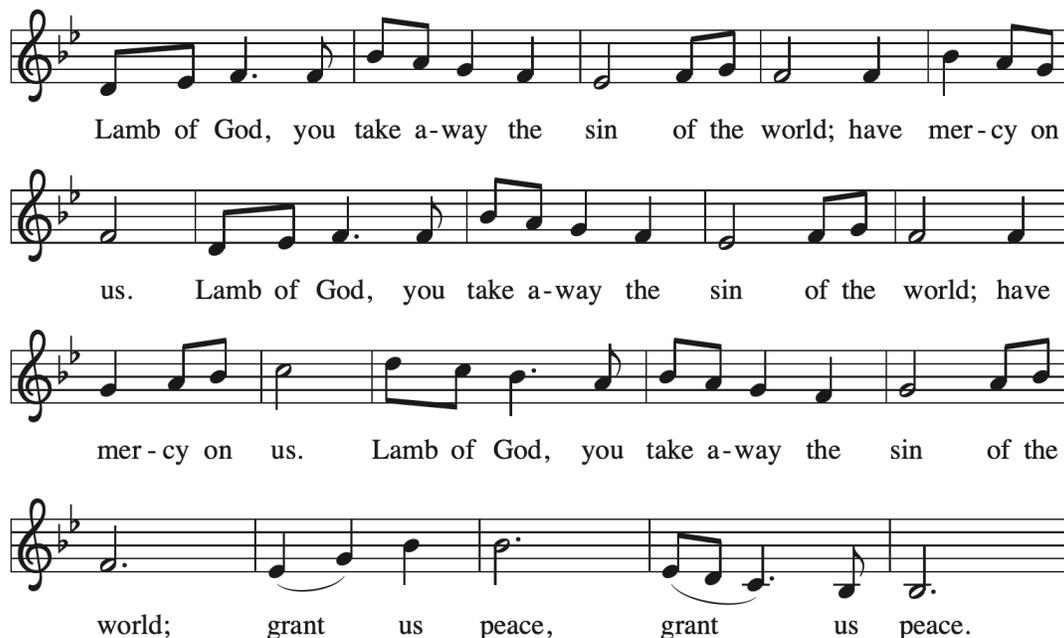
Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

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. Red wine and white grape juice are available in individual cups. Bread served is Gluten Free. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, cross your arms over your chest. Return to your seat by the side aisle.*

AGNUS DEI

(Setting 12)



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

(ELW 725)

When the Poor Ones

Cuando el pobre

- 1 *Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne y aún re-par-te,*
 1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;
 2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;
 3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;
 4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



- cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed ya-gua nos da,*
 when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;
 when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;
 when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;
 when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



- cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:*
 when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;
 when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us;
 when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:
 when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

Refrain / Estribillo

- Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;*
 We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



- va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.*
 we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

- 2 *Cuando alguno sufre y logra su consuelo,* 3 *Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda,*
cuando espera y no se cansa de esperar, *cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad,*
cuando amamos, aunque el odio nos rodee: *cuando amamos el sentir de los sencillos:*
 Estribillo Estribillo

- 4 *Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares,*
cuando alguien donde hay guerra pone paz,
cuando "hermano" le llamamos al extraño:
 Estribillo

Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951

Music: EL CAMINO, Miguel Manzano, b. 1934

Text and music © 1971, 1998 J.A. Olivar, Miguel Manzano, and San Pablo Internacional—SSP, admin. OCP Publications,
 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(ELW 307)

Light Shone in Darkness



1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,
 2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
 3 Light shines in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;



bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture's rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,
 Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,
 Christ's bod - y, groan - ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion, longs for God's jus - tice,



cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"
 hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!
 glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: LUX IN TENEBRIS, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Text © 2001, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(ACS 976)

Come and See

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

Text: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39

Music: COME AND SEE, Robert A. Hobby

Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Pastor: Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our siblings in their homes and in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Assembly: **Amen.**



WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



Our sending hymn continues the theme of justice. This beautifully poetic text by William Whitla inspires us to live our lives in ways that do God's justice on earth. The majestic tune, THAXTED, by Gustav Holst brings to mind the end of our gospel reading today when Jesus says to rejoice and be glad, for yours is the kingdom. "Let Streams of Living Justice" is a wonderful hymn that should inspire us to act justly and rejoice daily!

SENDING HYMN

(ELW 710)

Let Streams of Living Justice

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise
 † bless you now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE**ATTRIBUTIONS:**

All other portions of the liturgy are from Augsburg Fortress Copyright © 2019. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000419.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS**Presentation of Our Lord****Monday, February 2, 2026**

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865**Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

[Gustavo Gutierrez, OP Liberation and Change, ed. Ronald H. Stone (Atlanta: John Knox, 1977), 90, 92.]

Christ's liberation goes to the roots of all injustice and exploitation. It is not a liberation which is susceptible to a "spiritualist" interpretation, which is still so tenaciously present in certain Christian spheres. Love and sin (that is, the negation of love) are historical realities. They live in concrete conditions. It is for this reason that the Bible speaks of justice and liberation as opposed to slavery and the humiliation of the poor. God becomes truth in the heart of the society when the social classes question themselves and take the part of the poor of the grass-roots classes, of the despised races, of the marginalized cultures. To believe is to love God, to be united with the poor and exploited of this world. To believe is to preach, as Christ did, the kingdom from within the struggle for justice which led him to his death.

—Gustavo Gutierrez, OP

In Carl Heinrich Bloch's nineteenth-century painting of today's gospel reading, Jesus is dressed in red, symbolizing his royal authority.



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

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/HCLCHerndon

Instagram: www.Instagram.com/HolyCrossELCA

YouTube: www.YouTube.com/c/HolyCrossLutheranChurchHerndonVA

Email: Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Jeremy Shoop, Director of Music and Liturgy

(585) 748-2848

MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Marie Edwards Nelson, Church Administrator

(703) 437-1883

Sarah Schulmeyer, Church Administrator

Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Marie Edwards Nelson, Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper@HolyCrossHerndon.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cara Swanson Papenheim, President

(571) 481-6281

President@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Mark Roe, Vice President

(202) 615-8495

VicePresident@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Jo Roe, Secretary

(703) 477-3509

Secretary@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Bob Thompson, Treasurer

(703) 795-3662

Treasurer@HolyCrossHerndon.org