

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

Weekly Update



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

Sunday, February 15, 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)
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 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)
Michelle White (friend and coworker of Kate Flegal)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Supply Pastor:	Rev. Emily E. Ewing
Director of Music and Liturgy:	Jeremy Shoop
Sound Technician:	Bob Thompson
Video Technician:	Sylvia Moran

Serving February 15th: Transfiguration of Our Lord

Assisting Minister:	Kathy Makowski
Reader:	Richard Smullen
Acolyte:	Sarah Moran
Greeter:	Jared Lem

Serving February 22nd: First Sunday in Lent

Assisting Minister:	Andy Krueger
Reader:	Catherine Taylor
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	TBD

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: FEB 15 – FEB 22

SU 15	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Transfiguration of Our Lord
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	12:00 pm	Council Meeting
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
M 16		President's Day—Church Office Closed
TU 17	6:30 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper ~ FH
W 18	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service ~ Sanctuary
	7:00 pm	ELL ~ Education Wing
TH 19	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
F 20	9:00 am	LINK Food Distribution Prep, 9 am-9 pm
SA 21	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	8:00 am	LINK Food Distribution, 8-11 am
	10:00 am	Quilting Group ~ Rm 202
SU 22	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – First Sunday in Lent
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	Stephen Ministry Training ~ Rm 202
	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.



Voting for 2026 Hymn Madness starts on **March 1st!** Brackets will be located **in the Narthex** for you to pick up and complete. You can also find it **on our website under Current Links** or at tinyurl.com/HCLC-Hymn-Madness if you want to print at home. Winner with the most points will win the right to pick hymns on a Sunday this summer! Make sure to **fill out your bracket** with your name on it and return to Lauren or Jeremy before voting begins!!



Ash Wednesday
Worship
February 18 – 7:00 PM

On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes, a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin, but the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God's grace.



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME PASTOR EMILY

Rev. Emily E. Ewing (they/them) is an ELCA pastor serving in Baltimore, MD while pursuing their MFA in Community Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Pastor Emily cohosts the Horror Nerds At Church podcast and they combine creativity and spirituality to foster healing and empower justice in communities of every skill and age.



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)

LENT MIDWEEK DINNER CHURCH SERVICES BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

Join us for fellowship, fun and worship during Lent! Beginning Wednesday, February 25, and continuing through Wednesday, March 25, we will be having our midweek Lent Worship Services every week at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Please join us for dinner and fellowship prior to the service at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.

Reconciling in Christ Sunday ~ Transfiguration of Our Lord February 15, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM

This year's RIC Sunday invites us to reflect on what it means to live as a community shaped by revealed love. It calls us to give thanks for the ways we have grown while recognizing that God continues to draw us forward. By tending relationships and strengthening bonds of care, we discover how communities are formed and people are sustained. When we walk together in justice and compassion, we bear Christ's light more clearly—and all are made stronger.



WE GATHER



GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Proclamation

by Kevin McChesney

Joyful Ringers

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor:

Water is life. Our bodies need water. This community needs water to be resilient and flourish. Plants and animals need water. Water is essential for all of life on this planet to thrive and flourish.

We need water for drinking, for washing, for cooking, for cleaning, for refreshing. Water sustains our lives, and water enhances our lives. Every day of our lives includes multiple uses of water.

Let us give thanks for the gift of water and for baptism.

Assembly: We give you thanks, O God, for this water that comes to us as a gift from our Creator, the source of all that is good and life-giving. You are a generous and loving God who blesses us through water and who claims all people in the fullness of all orientations, gender identities, races, ethnicities, gender expressions, immigration statuses, beliefs, and abilities.

Pastor: Let us fill this font with water. Water from nearby lakes and rivers, creeks and streams; water upon which all living creatures depend and that nourishes all of life on this planet.

Water is poured into the font.

O God, may we live as careful stewards, guardians of this precious gift, protectors of the health of this planet, builders of resilient communities, and cultivators of life-giving relationships that promote peace and unity.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**



*We gather on RIC
Sunday with Marty
Haugen's "All Are
Welcome." In this text
we proclaim that all are
not only welcome, but
welcome in full
community at our
church. Stanza 5 ends
the hymn with a call for
our church to proclaim
from floor to rafter!*

GATHERING HYMN

(Stanzas 1, 2 & 5)
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #641)

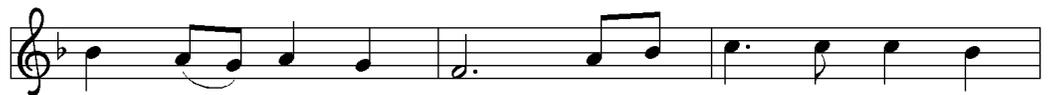
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Refrain
Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Holy God, on the mountain you revealed your beloved Son in glory and called your disciples to listen. Open our eyes to see your image shining in every person, open our ears to hear your voice where it has been silenced, and open our hearts to live the love you have already named. As we come down from the mountain, send us into the world as witnesses to your light, through Jesus Christ, your Beloved, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Please sit.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

**ANTHEM**

Shine, Jesus, Shine
Joyful Ringers

arr. Peggy Betcher

In describing the transfiguration experience as a mountaintop theophany, Matthew assumes that his readers know this Exodus passage, and in hearing Exodus 24, we understand more of Matthew's theology. The church now assembles on the mountain of the church to receive the word of God for the forty days of Lent.

FIRST READING

Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the Lord" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Not only the author of 2 Peter, but now also we affirm the mystery of Jesus Christ transfigured by divine majesty. We are now on the holy mountain, and we will stand to receive the gospel account.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

Reader: A reading from the second letter of Peter.

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 17th chapter.

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

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his

In the narrative of the transfiguration the church sees testimony to Jesus' status as the eschatological Son of Man and the beloved Son of God. Just as God spoke on a mountaintop in ages past, so now Christ speaks, first in

the Sermon on the Mount, and now from the Mount of Transfiguration. Matthew's message: "Listen to him." This Sunday, through these reading, we stand to do so. The church becomes the dwelling that Peter thinks to erect.

clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.



On Transfiguration Sunday, we celebrate a glory that is revealed rather than created. “Beautiful Savior” invites us to see Christ clearly, confessing a beauty rooted in love, presence, and restoration. The hymn affirms that God’s glory is made known within creation itself and through a Savior who draws near to human life.

As the hymn unfolds through images of meadows, light, and shining skies, it locates holiness not in power or perfection but in what heals and gives life. Christ’s radiance lifts the sorrowing, renews joy, and shines without overwhelming—echoing the Gospel’s vision of a love that invites trust rather than fear.

The final stanza widens our vision as Christ is praised as Lord of all peoples and nations, proclaiming a belonging that transcends race, culture, ability, language, and social boundaries. Heard within a RIC community, “Beautiful Savior” becomes both

HYMN OF THE DAY

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #838)

Stanza 1: Assembly in unison

Stanza 3: Assembly in harmony

Stanza 2: Choir

Stanza 4: Assembly in unison

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

praise and calling: to recognize God's image in every person and to carry that revealed love down the mountain and into the world.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: God desires full life for all. On the mountain, you revealed your beloved Son in glory and called your people to listen. As a church, we confess that many of God's beloved children—because of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, disability, immigration status, language, or social location—have too often been denied dignity, safety, and abundant life. We condemn the social and spiritual forces that silence, exclude, criminalize, or devalue people made in your image. We affirm that every person bears your glory, and we reject any power, privilege, or prejudice that fractures community and diminishes joy, justice, and flourishing life for all.

I invite you to profess your faith, renouncing the forces of evil and the power of sin.

Do you renounce the powers of racism, sexism, queerphobia, ableism, xenophobia, and all systems that distort God's good creation?

Assembly: **We renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you renounce systems of oppression that harm God's children, deny belonging, and obscure the light of Christ in our neighbors?

Assembly: **We renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the sins of silence, fear, and complacency that draw us away from God and neighbor?

Assembly: **We renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Creator?

Assembly: **We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and earth, architect of time, quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground, and by your breath every creature is given life, worth, and belonging.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Assembly: **We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made**

flesh, truly divine and truly human. On the mountain you revealed him as your Beloved; in the valley you sent him to walk with the vulnerable, confront injustice, and heal the broken. He died among us to break the bonds of sin and death and was raised to bring abundant life for all.

Pastor:

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Assembly:

We believe in you, O God, who speaks from the cloud and moves us to listen, who transforms fear into courage and strangers into neighbors. By your Spirit, gather us into one body, equip us to bear Christ's light into the world, and send us down the mountain to live what we have seen.

All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: Trusting in God's mercy and listening for the voice that still speaks from the cloud, let us pray for the church, the world, and all whom God loves.

We pray for the greater church.

Assisting Minister: God of glory, you revealed your beloved Son and called your disciples to listen. Open the eyes of your church to see Christ's light shining in every person. Shape us into communities where all are welcomed, named, and cherished. Make us bold witnesses to your love in word and deed. God of light,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for the world.

Assisting Minister: God of justice, your glory fills all creation. We pray for a world fractured by fear, violence, and division. Bring down systems that oppress and uplift all who are pushed to the margins. Guide leaders and nations toward wisdom that protects the vulnerable, honors human dignity, and seeks peace for all people. God of light,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are excluded or silenced.

Assisting Minister: God of compassion, you draw near to those who are overlooked or denied belonging. We pray for immigrants and refugees seeking safety and home; for people with disabilities navigating barriers seen and unseen; for those harmed by racism, poverty, or discrimination; and for all whose identities or bodies have been judged or rejected. Let your voice of belovedness be louder than the voices of harm. God of light,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need.

Assisting Minister: God of healing, you know the pain and hope each person carries. We pray for all who are sick, grieving, lonely, or afraid; for those facing uncertainty or loss; and for all who long for restoration of body, mind, or spirit, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). Surround them with your mercy and renew them with your peace. God of light,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation.

Assisting Minister: God of presence, as we come down from the mountain, send us into the valley with courage and care. Help Holy Cross Lutheran Church live what we proclaim—listening deeply, loving boldly, and acting justly. Strengthen us to embody your reconciling love in our worship, our relationships, and our service to the world. God of light,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We remember the saints.

Assisting Minister: God of faithfulness, we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, who glimpsed your glory and followed your call. Inspire us by their witness to trust your promises and to live as people shaped by hope, courage, and love. God of light,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gather these prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your mercy, O God, and send us forth to live as people who have seen your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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

The Heavens Declare by Benedetto Marcello
 Marcia Kratzke, piano; Jeremy Shoop, organ

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

Praise God from Whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low.

Praise God, a - bove ye heav'n - ly host. Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: God of light and life, from the fullness of your creation you have given us all that we need. As you revealed your glory in Christ, reveal your love through these gifts. Receive what we offer—our work, our resources, and our lives—and use them to build communities of welcome, justice, and compassion, where every person is seen, valued, and beloved.

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.

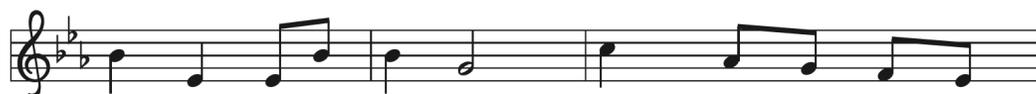
Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus was always the guest.

At the tables of friends and strangers, among those welcomed and those pushed aside, he listened, healed, and restored. At tables shaped by power and privilege, he unsettled comfort and lifted silenced voices. Still, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, Christ is the host.

Here, those who follow are first fed, those who serve are first served. This is the table where God nourishes the world, where every body belongs and the broken are made whole.

So come, you who hunger for mercy, you who thirst for justice. The one who shared our tables now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed, as they were gathered at a meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Send now your Holy Spirit upon this bread and cup, and upon us who share this meal. Open our eyes to see your glory, and send us into the world to live what we have received.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, 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: This is a table of grace, where no one is turned away and all are welcomed and fed. Come, you who hunger for mercy and thirst for justice.

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

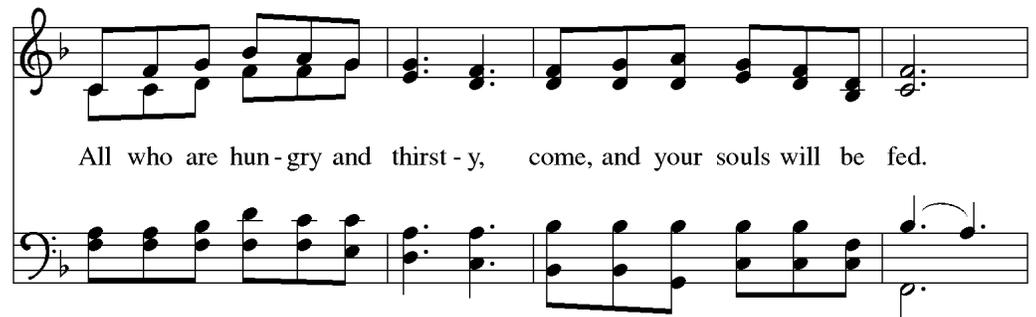


world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (Evangelical Lutheran Worship #481)
Come to the Table



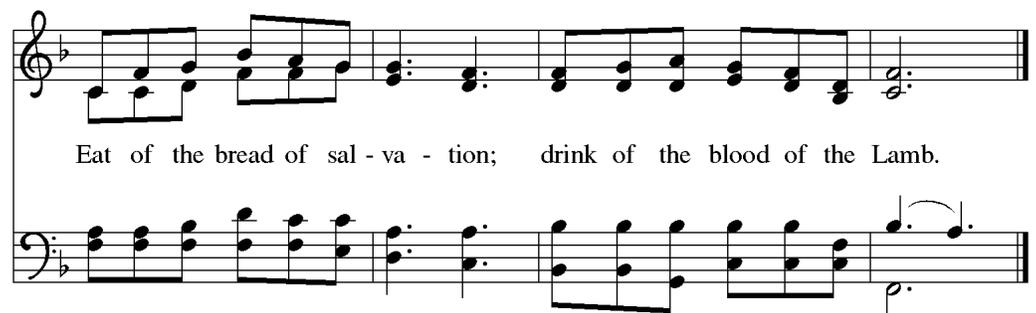
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Stanza two of this hymn references Christ's transfiguration on the mountain. It also references Christ's coming crucifixion. Each phrase that celebrates Christ's place in glory is followed by a phrase that reminds us of his humanity.

This hymn is full of paradoxes like this. Christ is both a king and was born in a dirty stable. Christ is both lamb and shepherd. The Christian paradox is evident in many festivals throughout the church year. Sylvia Dunstan's hymn reflects on this paradox. She even calls this hymn "Christus Paradox." Dunstan, who served as a duty chaplain in a maximum-security jail, describes her hymn like this:

"Drafted on a commuter bus after a particularly bad day at the jail, this hymn owes much to my longstanding relationship with Søren Kierkegaard. (Either this philosophical fragment is a repetition of fear and trembling,

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(ACS #954)

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



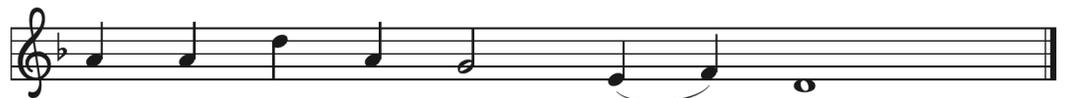
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide,
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

or it is an edifying discourse on purity of heart.)”

One of the paradoxes that Dunstan puts forth in this hymn is repeated in each stanza. “You, the everlasting instant.” Using this phrase four times is a beautifully poetic way to acknowledge the mystery of how God exists outside of time.

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: God of light, at this table you have fed us with the body and blood of Christ and revealed your love made present among us. Strengthen us to carry this grace into the world—to see your image in every neighbor, to listen beyond fear, and to live with courage and compassion. Send us from this place to shine with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Assembly: Amen.

LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

Please stand as you are able.



WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



The word “Alleluia” is the epitome of praise for Christians, however during medieval times it was forbade to use the word during Lent. This is still a common practice in today’s church.

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness” is intended as a “farewell” to alleluia. After today we will not revive this word again until Easter morning. “Alleluia, Song of Gladness” (with a text dating back to medieval times) begins with two stanzas of praise to God before foreshadowing our Lenten journey in stanza three. Stanza four ends the hymn with a longing for the never-ending Easter in heaven.

SENDING HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #318)

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the God of light, who reveals glory on the mountain and walks with us in the valley, bless you and keep you. May Christ, whose love makes all things new, shine in you and through you. May the Holy Spirit open your eyes to see clearly, your ears to listen deeply, and your lives to bear light in the world. In the name of the Father, † and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Live as people who have seen God's glory.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in g minor

by J.S. Bach

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.

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FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

[Ephraem, in The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, II, 46.]

The disciples upon the mountain behold two suns: one, to which they were accustomed, shining in the sky; and another, to which they were unaccustomed, shining down on them and from the firmament giving light to the whole world, and which then shone for them alone, which was the face of Jesus before them. His face shone, not like the face of Moses, from without; from his face the glory of his divinity poured forth, yet remained with him. From himself came his own light. Moses and Elijah were filled with joy, and the apostles likewise, in their ascent of the mountain. The prophets rejoiced because they had seen Jesus' humanity, which they had not known. And the apostles rejoiced because they had seen the glory of his divinity, which they had not known.

—Ephraem

Many artists have tried their hand at depicting the mystery of the Transfiguration. One interesting version is by Alexander Ivanov in 1824.



THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

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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