

16th Weekend after Pentecost / Holy Cross Day
September 12-13, 2026
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND

(u)

PASSING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Lead Me Lord”

Lead me Lord, / lead me in thy righteousness; /
make thy way plain (/) before my face.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C Amen.

P Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Merciful and loving God,

C we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Lord I Lift Your Name On High"

Lord I lift Your name on high/

Lord I love to sing Your prais - es/

I'm so glad You're in my life/

I'm so glad You came to save_ us

***You came from heaven to earth/To show the way/**

From the earth_ to the cross/My debt to pay

***From the cross_ to the grave/From the grave_ to the sky/**

Lord I lift Your name on high (*repeat verse*)

GREETING

P **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

C **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Come Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"

Come, let us join our cheerful songs/

with angels round the throne;/

ten thousand thousand are their tongues,/

but all their joys are one.

***Jesus is worthy to receive/honor and pow'r divine;/**

And blessings, more than we can give,/

be, Lord, forever thine.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P **Let us pray together.**

C **Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(d)

ANTHEM

LESSON OF THE DAY

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

The lesson begins:

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al – le – luia! / Lord to whom shall we go? / Al – le – luia.

***You have_ the words / of_ eternal life. /**

Al – le – lu – ia, al – le – luia.

GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

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SERMON

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SERMON RESPONSE "O God, Who Gives Us Life"

O_ God, who gives / us_ life and breath, /
who shapes us in_ the womb,
*who_ guards our lives / from birth to death, /
then_ leads_ us from the tomb:
*deliver us from fears that kill / the life we have from you. /
Help us to know your_ Spirit, /
still is_ mak – ing all things new.

APOSTLES' CREED

P

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- P** Sustaining God, guide your church, whose symbol recognized around the world is the cross on which you died to save us from our sins. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. May we look to the cross and live. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** Gracious God, with the election of the Rev. Yehiel Curry as the new presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, we ask that you continue to speak your word anew among this church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for the people and ministries of this congregation. Help us to meditate on your Word day and night. Give us grace to forgive, faithfulness to serve, and joyfulness to worship. Use us to lead many people, as well as the younger generations including our grandchildren, to those streams of living water in which is found true life in Christ. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving (*especially...*). Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** In the power of the Holy Spirit, we entrust our prayers and petitions into your hands, gracious Father, for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.

OFFERING

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OFFERTORY

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,/
and_ fill to the brim our cup of blessing./
Gather a harvest(/)from the seeds that were sown,/
that we may be fed(/)with the bread of life.
*Gather the hopes(/)and the dreams_ of all;/
unite them with the prayers we offer./
Grace our table with your presence,/
and give us a foretaste(/)of the feast to come.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy Ho - ly Holy, Lord_,/God of power and might_,/
Heav'n and earth_(/)are full of Your glory,/
Hosannah in_ the highest.
*Blessed_ is He who comes_//in the name of the Lord,/
Hosannah in_ the highest_,/Hosannah in_ the highest!

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with

the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

☞ As a community, let us pray in the way our Lord Jesus has taught us: *(Spoken)*

☞ 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

☞ Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

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COMMUNION is given and received.

(w/ Lamb of God & optional extra hymn included)

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

☞ O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

BENEDICTION

GATHERING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

**Ref. Lift high the cross, / the love of Christ proclaim /
till all the world adore his sac - red name.**

**1 Come, Christians, / follow where our captain trod, /
our king vic - torious, / Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)**

**3 O Lord, once lifted / on the glorious tree, /
as thou hast_ promised, / draw us all to thee. (Refrain)**

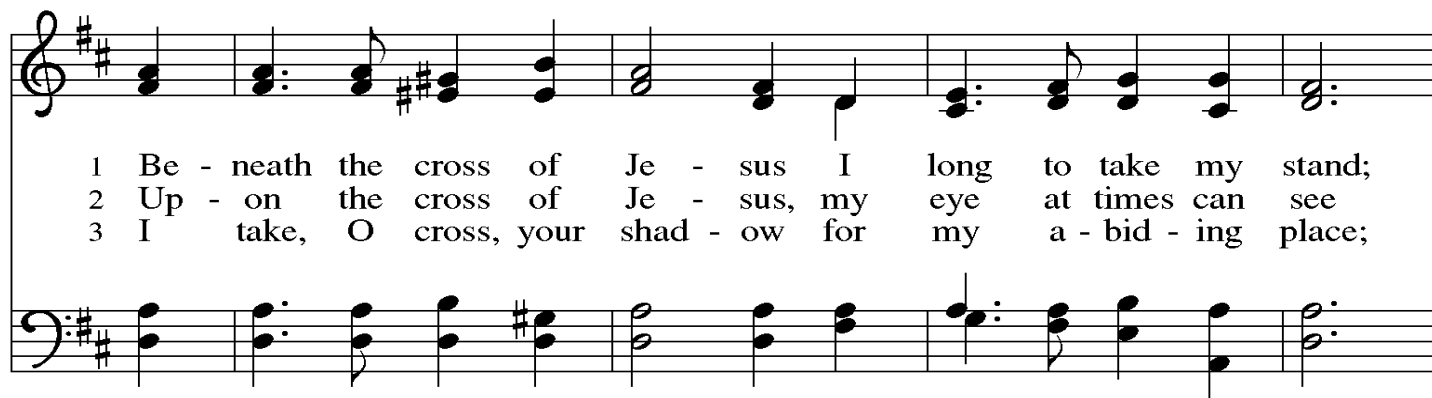
**4 So shall our song / of triumph ever be: /
praise to the_ Crucified / for victory! (Refrain)**

DISMISSAL

- A Let us go forth, to know Christ and to make Christ known,**
- C Caring for our members and supporting our community.**
- Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Beneath the Cross of Jesus



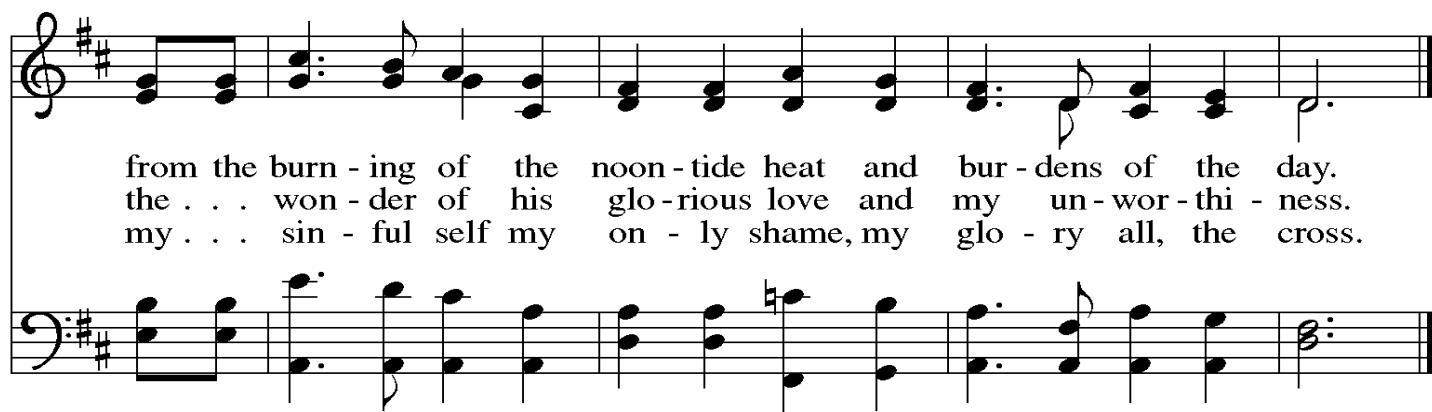
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.