

*Welcome to*  
Luther Memorial Church



14 SEPTEMBER 2025  
**THE TRIUMPH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
SEASON AFTER PENTECOST  
10:30 am

## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

### LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

RON KING

*Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*LMA Principal*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

## WELCOME!

*This is the day that the Lord has made. Together, let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

~ Here are a few notes to help you participate in worship today: Almost everything you need is in this bulletin, including hymns. You are invited to participate with the words in **bold type**. You are invited to stand as you are able where indicated. Hymns are included in this bulletin, however if you need larger print, hymns may be found in the back of the red hymnal using the number indicated (#). Please join in singing all the music! Today especially we raise our voices in praise!

~ **You don't need to disconnect here!** You don't need to turn off your phone, but please place it in silent mode. Feel free to take pictures—of our building, of worship, but ask permission for any people-pictures. We ask that you not use flash during this worship service. Post your favorite quote from the sermon or verse from a hymn...just be sure to check in and let your friends know where you are!

~ **We welcome** all of God's children **no matter your age**. Wiggles, dancing, and singing welcome! Together we raise a joyful noise. If you would like a children's bulletin, a soft toy, or a book, they're near the ramp door (out the doors next to the pulpit on the long Welcome Table).

~ **Restrooms** may be found out either door at the front of the Sanctuary. There is an accessible ramp through the doors near the pulpit. At the top of the ramp(s), follow signs to the restrooms. A fully accessible restroom is available through the parlor.

~ There are **hand fans** available on the table by the pulpit. Please help yourself and remember to return after worship this morning.

+ + +

**PRELUDE – "When I Survey"**

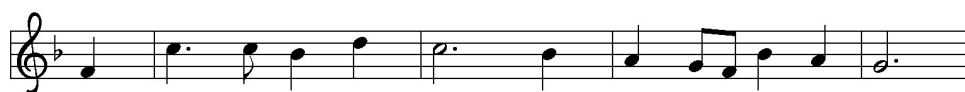
Anon.

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

**ELW 651**

**Oh, Praise the Gracious Power**



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
- 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
- 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
- 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:  
 and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:  
 ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:  
 a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:  
 with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:



*Refrain*  
 We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

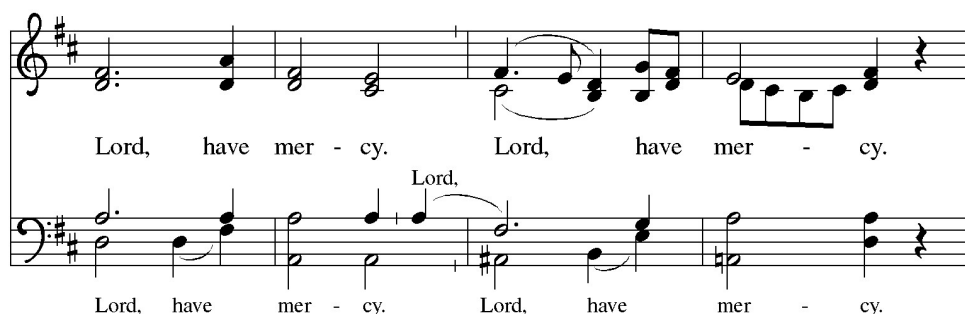
- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,  
 the love, the word, the tide.  
 Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,  
 praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ  
 with faith's bright songful voice!  
 Announce the gospel to the world  
 and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945  
 Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936  
 Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

**OPENING SENTENCE**

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.  
 And blessed be God's reign now and forever. Amen.

**KYRIE**



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. have mer - cy. have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out, <sup>4b</sup>but the people became discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and



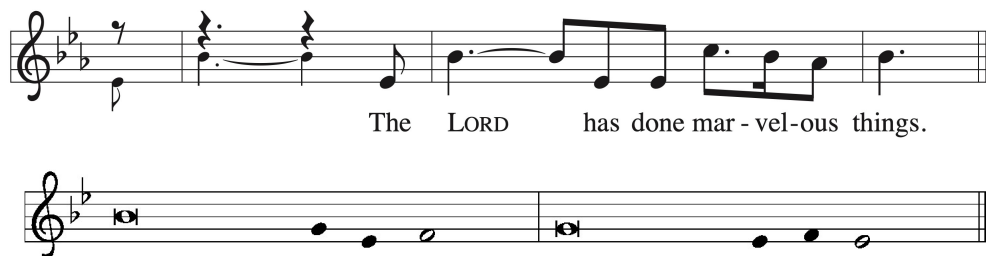
everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 98:1-4

*The antiphon is introduced by the cantor and repeated by the congregation wherever indicated (A). The verses are chanted responsively with the congregation joining on the verses in **bold**.*



<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made | known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations. A**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. A**

### SECOND READING: Romans 1:18-24

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>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? <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please rise in body or spirit to greet the Gospel. The cantor introduces the Alleluia. The congregation repeats and again after the cantor offers the verse.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

M. E. Krentz  
BOURBON



♪ *May I never boast in anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to Nicodemus who had come to him by night: <sup>13</sup>“No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son-of-Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son-of-Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that God gave the Son, the only begotten one, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.*

## SERMON

Pastor Karen

*After a brief silence for reflection, as the music sounds, please stand to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 335

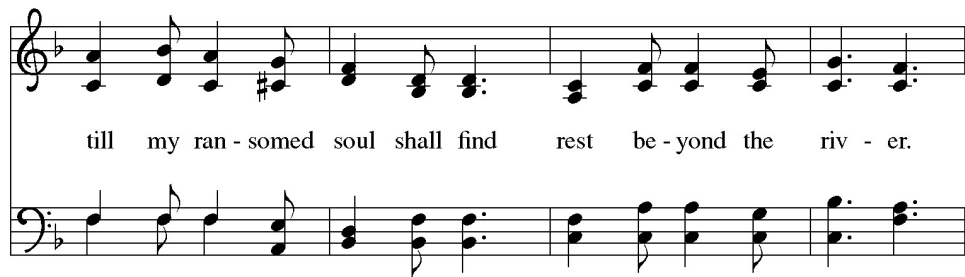
### Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system, labeled 'Refrain', contains the final line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*  
In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

## THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through whom all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. Strengthen and uphold Elizabeth and Kristen, our bishops, and Yehiel, our Presiding-Bishop elect. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. Assure us of the bounty of your creation that food and supplies may be shared and not hoarded or denied those in need. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. Inspire those with ability to love our children more than guns. Grant lasting peace to those places where war has too long been known, in particular: Palestine, Iran, Ukraine, Haiti, the Sudan. May they seek the way of the cross and live. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now: \_\_\_\_\_. Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. Accompany those who consider suicide and help them to see your love and the support of their community. May all find hope in the cross and live. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. Encourage all our congregations in the Erie Lutheran Conference as we seek to worship, learn, and serve in this place together. May we follow you to the cross and live. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for Helena, Cyprian, Hildegard, Dag, Betty and Robert, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.  
**Amen.**

#### **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please share greetings and gestures of peace with those around you. Please be seated.*

#### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### **THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED**



*An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, you may visit <https://bit.ly/LMCDonate> or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically.*

**OFFERTORY – "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"**

**D. Lasky**

*Please rise in body or spirit as the gifts are presented.*

## Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,  
 give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.  
 Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,  
 give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.  
 And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
 rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And  
 now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
 rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith  
 Music: GIVE THANKS. Henry Smith

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.  
 Merciful Father,  
**we offer with joy and thanksgiving**  
**what you have first given us—**  
**ourselves, our time, and our possessions,**  
**signs of your gracious love.**  
**Receive them for the sake of him**  
**who offered himself for us,**  
**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all place give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior, Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

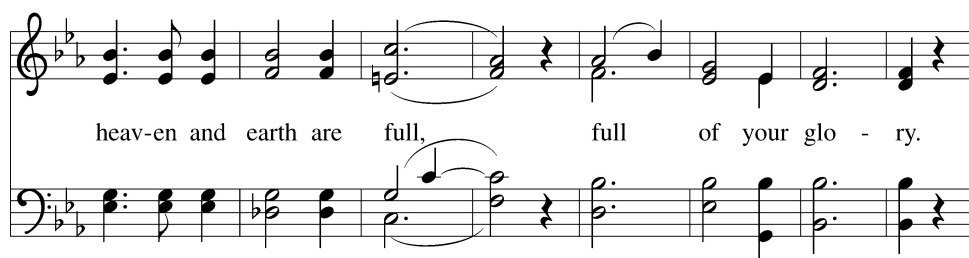
## SANCTUS



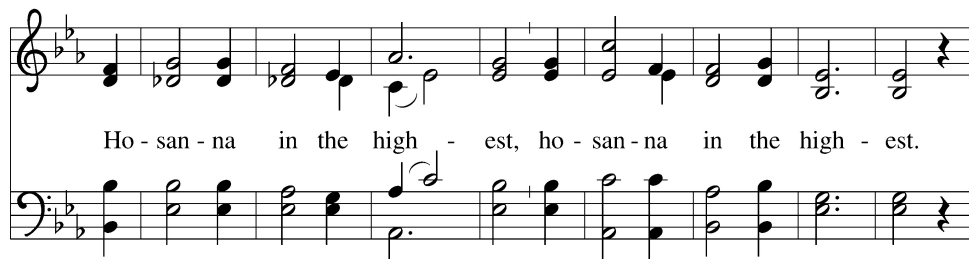
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



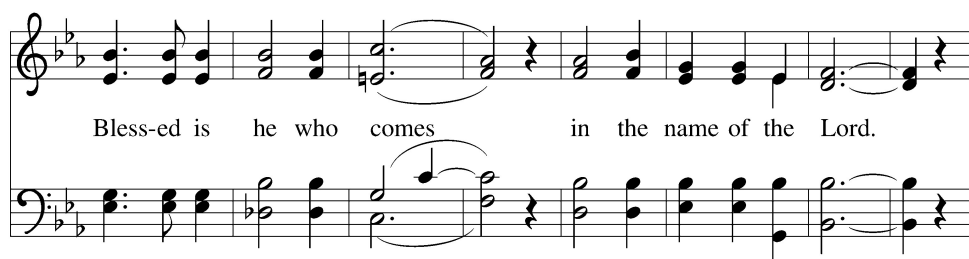
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



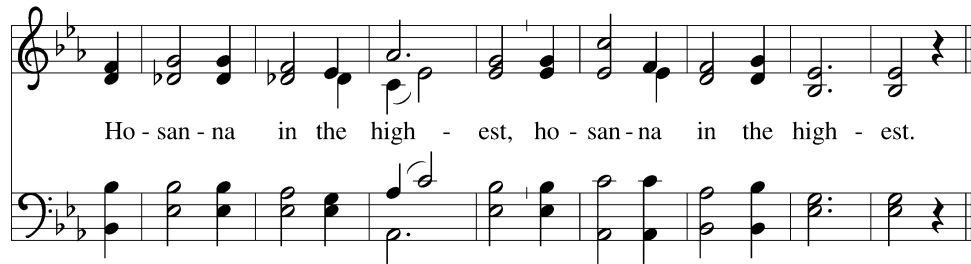
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



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



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your Only Begotten One, that all those who believe in Christ should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive with a living faith the same Jesus who comes to us in this holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, 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 for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 THE TABLE

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is made ready!

**One is Holy; One is Lord: Jesus Christ to the glory of God. Amen.**

Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ for you.

*Please be seated.*

## THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and the Risen Christ is, himself, present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know. Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray. All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

## HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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# In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872  
 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

# Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

## *At the Cross*

1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov - 'reign die?  
 2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?  
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in  
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears;  
 5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;

Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?  
 A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, and love be - yond de - gree!  
 when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.  
 dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.  
 here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: it's all that I can do.

*Refrain*

At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the  
bur-den of my heart rolled a - way: it was there by faith I re -  
ceived my sight, and now I am hap - py all the day.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Ralph E. Hudson, refrain  
Music: HUDSON, Ralph E. Hudson, 1843-1901

## TABLE BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 501

### Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.  
And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!  
Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;





Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891  
 Music: WERDE MUNTER, Johann Schop, 1600–1665; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION *if needed*

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that the Meal we have shared here may be extended for our siblings who are not here.

**We who are many are one body in Christ, sharing one bread, one cup.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

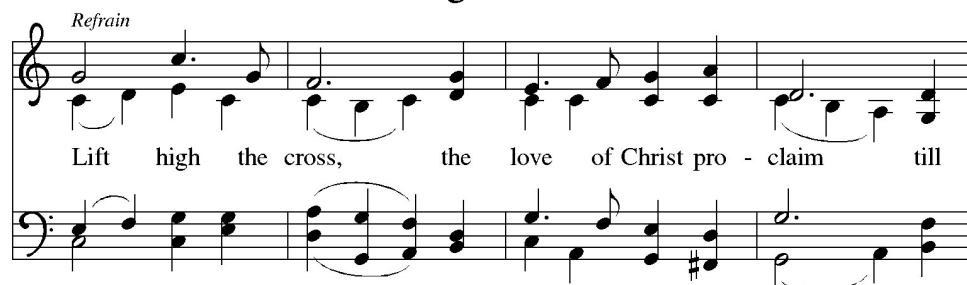
...now and forever.



## SENDING HYMN

ELW 660

## Lift High the Cross





all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956  
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947  
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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE – "Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott Lasst Walten"

J..S. Bach

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### — SERVING TODAY —

*PRESIDING MINISTER* – Pastor Jay Mitchell

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Pat Bellingham

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Elaine Kern

*LECTOR* – Linda Graffius

*USHERS* – Cathy Beck, Sue Cappelletty, Mary Daniels, Dave Kinzig

*ALTAR GUILD* – Martha & Tom Klomp

*VIDEO STREAMING* – Gina Snider



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our families by Ellen and Lou DiPlacido.

**Front altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Betty Halttunen by her daughter, Janet Kent.

**Bulletins** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Robert, who died on September 8, 2016; my mother, Clara Coburn, who died on September 10, 2007; and my younger sister, Carol Emerson, who died on February 18, 2024, by Pat Young.

### **Today's Events**

**We welcome** Pastor Karen Kostur from Immanuel Lutheran Church this morning. Our pastors are taking part in a pastoral exchange and Pastor Jay is preaching at St. Peter's, North East.

**Second Sunday Soirée** is being held in the parlor at 9:15 this morning for a time of fellowship between services. Thank you to Carol and Bob Davidson for providing some sweets while we visit.

### **Bishop Installation**

**Bishop Kristen Papon**, a daughter of Luther, will be installed as Bishop by The Rev. Yehiel Curry, V Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, on Sunday, 19 October at 3:30pm at Good Hope, Oil City. All are invited and encouraged to attend. If you would like a seat on the bus leaving from Luther's parking lot at 1:30pm, please let the church office know by Sunday, September 28. Space is limited and is first-come-first-served. Cost is \$5 per person.

### **Worship Matters!**

**Holy Cross Day** is a unique celebration. Technically, the day is known as The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. But the choice of date has very little to do with the Cross itself. It is on September 14 in the year 326 that Helena, the mother of Constantine, founded the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed to be on the site of Jesus' crucifixion and burial, in Jerusalem. To this day, this church remains one of the holiest sites in all Christianity and held in esteem by Christians of many denominations.

According to tradition, Helena was a recent and fervent convert to Christianity after her son legalized its practice in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century CE. She went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Land and on her travels collected a number of relics of Jesus and the saints. She would later bring these back and build a church to mirror the Church of the Holy Sepulchre—the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem (Basilica Santa Croce Gerusalemme)—in Rome to house these relics where they can still be found now. However, as she sought the holiest of relics—the True Cross—there were many places thought to be where Jesus was crucified. It is said that one morning she smelled sweet basil and, following her nose, was led to a trash heap-turned-hill covered in sweet basil and upon digging found wood enough for three crosses. When a sick man touched one of the crosses, he was healed. Helena, then, built the church in this location.

Now, whether or not all those details are factually true, it is nevertheless the case that all of Christianity has come to revere this site as holy—and often what we hold holy is made holy precisely because of our common reverence. Taking a cue from the story of how the True Cross was found, in many parts of the Church—particularly in the Eastern Church and Eastern Europe—today is the day to harvest the remaining basil and prepare it for storage (this is, also, just generally near the end of the basil season outdoors, anyway). Interestingly, if you flatten a “layer” of a basil plant, there are four leaves that form a cross.

However it comes to us, on this day all these years later and almost a direct 6 months after Good Friday, we take time to give thanks not just for the Passion of Jesus through which we are redeemed, but also the instrument of Capital Punishment the Government used to execute an inconvenient peripatetic prophet who spoke truth to power and challenged the status quo.

*We adore you, O Christ, and as bless you. By you holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

**LIVESTREAMERS ARE NEEDED!** Recently, a few of our services have not been livestreamed and therefore not available to our homebound members. This is due to scheduling conflicts and volunteer availability. We need a robust rotation of livestreamers which involves tending the camera in the choir loft during our 10:30am worship service and our main worship services on feast days (such as Christmas Eve or Ash Wednesday). All ages are welcome to take on this vital leadership role in our communal worship. If you are interested in what this would entail and/or would like to sign up, please speak with Cantor Bryan or Pastor Jay.

## **Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series**

**The Concert Series** has a variety of events planned beginning this fall. These events can be viewed by visiting our website at [www.lm-concerts.com](http://www.lm-concerts.com). More information can also be found on our Luther Memorial website under “Ministries”.

**Our First “Concert”—on Saturday, September 20--**will be a viewing of *Matt Shepard Is a Friend of Mine*. The producers, Linda Karn, along with Matthew Shepard’s parents, Judy and Dennis, will be with us for this momentous occasion. This event is free—as are all our concerts—but tickets are required for crowd control. If you are interested in tickets, see someone in the parlor following worship today to sign up online, or you can sign up at [lm-concerts.com](http://lm-concerts.com).

### **Faith Formation for All Ages**

**Bibles** will be presented to children in third grade on All Saints’ Sunday, November 2, during the 10:30am service. Please contact Norma in the church office by Monday, October 20 if your son and/or daughter are in third grade so a Bible can be prepared for them. Thank you.

**Sunday School for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** begins on October 12 and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday! **LYO** will also meet during this time. Acolyte training will also be available on these Sundays.

**Confirmation classes** for our 10<sup>th</sup> grade youth will begin Sunday, September 21 held from 11:45am – 2:00pm with lunch provided. Youth will walk in the CROP Walk on September 28 and attend class held October 5 and October 12. Youth will be confirmed Sunday, October 26 at the 10:30am service.

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. This year we are using *Crossroads: Reading the Bible in Divisive Times* by Josh Scott. You do not need the book to participate, but if you would like a copy of the book, it is \$15 to the church office.

### **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Put your detective skills** to the test at our Family Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, September 21. The hunt begins at 1:00pm from the church and the clues will take you to our mystery destination. Always a great afternoon! RSVP to Sarah Prylinski, 882-1695, no later than September 17.

**Oktoberfest**, our annual delicious feast, will be held Sunday, October 5 at 11:30am in fellowship hall. The main course of bratwurst & sauerkraut, hotdogs and macaroni & cheese will be served, as well as beverages. All are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Raise your glasses and cheer – Oktoberfest! RSVP to the church office by Sunday, September 28.

**Come and join** us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon; September 23. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**OWLS** want to know “What’s Your Game?” Join us for a fun time playing board games, cards, checkers or your favorite game on Wednesday, September 24. We will meet in the parlor at 11:00am. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes at 814-833-0476 or the church office by Friday, September 19.

### **Saint Zita’s Day—Church Clean-Up!**

**Saint Zita**, a 13<sup>th</sup> century Italian woman known for her devotion to God and her service to others, is the patron saint of domestic workers. On Saturday, September 27 we will observe St. Zita’s Day by working together and clean our main church and parlor. We would be thrilled to see 50 people join us at 9:00am and finish up in no time. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Les Fobes or Norma in the church office by Wednesday, September 24 if you plan to help. Thank you.

## Outreach

**CROP Walk** day is Sunday, September 28 with registration at 1:00pm and the walk beginning at 2:00pm. The Walk will begin at Beach 1. Luther Memorial (both Church **and** Academy) will have a shared Team as part of LMA Sunday celebrations. Get your family and friends together and join us in this special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. If you are unable to walk, consider making a donation to someone who is walking. A donation packet is available from the church office.

## Items to Note

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

**In case of a pastoral emergency**, please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

## — PRAYER LIST —

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

#### **Our Members:**

Dorothy Youngman	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
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#### **Friends and Family:**

Mary Beth & Nancy Kelly	Justin	Jeff	Dolores Koscinski
Maureen C.	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Carol Steffey & Marissa	Sandy M.	Ron Lester	Sherry Giles
Lakeyia, Damarion, Noah, Diamond	Henderson family	Carol Johnson	Phil Nagy
David Gilbert	Joel	Debbie Betit	Jeff Monroe

#### **Grief:**

Dave Parsh family	Woodard family
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#### **Our Military Service Men & Women:**

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	



## Readings and Commemoration This Week

**September 15** – Psalm 73; Amos 7:1-6; I Timothy 1:18-20

**September 16** – **Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, 258** – Psalm 73; Jonah 3:1-10; II Peter 3:8-13 -- *Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.*

**September 17** – **Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, 1179** – Psalm 73; Job 40:6-14, 42:1-6; Luke 22:31-33, 54-62 -- *A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.*

**September 18** – **Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, 1961** – Psalm 113; Exodus 23:1-9; Romans 3:1-8 -- *A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as Markings, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.*

**September 19** – Psalm 113; Ezekiel 22:17-31; Romans 8:31-39

**September 20** – Psalm 113; Isaiah 5:8-23; Mark 12:41-44



## CALENDAR

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**                      3:30pm                      Prayer Group

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18</b>	12:00pm	Brown Bag Bible
	1:00pm	Grief Group

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**      4:00pm      “Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine” Program

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**  
**THE FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

**Worship** with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

**Confirmation class** will be held at 11:45am.

**Family Scavenger Hunt** begins at 1:00pm.

**VASA** meeting held in the parlor at 1:00pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Chloe Meucci
Communion Assistant <i>(1 needed)</i>	10:30am	Linda Graffius
Lector	10:30am	Karen Braendel
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Christy Adams
Counters	10:30am	Martha Klomp, Ken Kraut
Ushers <i>(4 needed)</i>	10:30am	Carl Moore