

## Holy Cross Day

September 14, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

*Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Four*



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Prayer before Worship

*As we come into your presence, O God, bless this time of worship. Unite our prayers and praises with your whole Church on earth and in heaven. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to worship you in spirit and in truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



### Welcome

#### Pre-Service Music

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (J. S. Bach)  
(Handbell Choir)

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### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19b [18:20]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalms 124:8*

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Psalms 130:3-4*

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*

*Please kneel or be seated for a time of silent prayer and confession, as able*

**P** Almighty God,

**C** have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
*[John 20:19-23]*

**C Amen.**

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## SERVICE OF THE WORD

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### Opening Hymn

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (LSB 427)

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 sa - cred  
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -  
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no  
sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872  
Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-67  
Text and tune: Public domain

### 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.**



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14, John 1:29



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
 2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
 Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray:

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Children's Message

### Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34: 11-24

<sup>11</sup>"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

<sup>17</sup>"As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. <sup>18</sup>Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet?

<sup>19</sup>And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

<sup>20</sup>"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**L** I waited patiently for the LORD;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

**C** **He drew me up from the pit of destruction,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.**

**L** He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the LORD.

**C** **Blessèd is the man who makes  
the LORD his trust,  
who does not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray after a lie!**

**L** You have multiplied, O LORD my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
none can compare with you  
I will proclaim and tell of them,  
yet they are more than can be told.

**C** **Sacrifice and offering you have not desired,  
but you have given me an open ear.  
Burnt offering and sin offering  
you have not required.**

**L** Then I said, "Behold, I have come;  
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**C** **I desire to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart."**

**L** I have told the glad news of deliverance  
in the great congregation;  
behold, I have not restrained my lips,  
as you know, O LORD.

**C** **I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
from the great congregation.**

**L** As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain  
your mercy from me;  
your steadfast love and your faithfulness will  
ever preserve me!

## Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly 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 scribe? 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse



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



**C** These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God. *John 20:31*



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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup>"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

**<sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."**

<sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Sermon

"The Seeking Shepherd"

## Hymn of the Day

"Lift High the Cross" (LSB 837)

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till

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



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,  
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,  
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied  
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.  
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt.  
Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947  
Text and tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318

## Profession of Faith

## The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father 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 him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. During the season after Pentecost each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy."*

*Please respond by saying "Hear our prayer."*

*The prayers end with the words:*

- P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Following the prayers, the people may stand and greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,*

*"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*

*(Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

## Announcements

### Offertory Prayer

- L** Merciful God,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, 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.

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## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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### Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

**C** And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

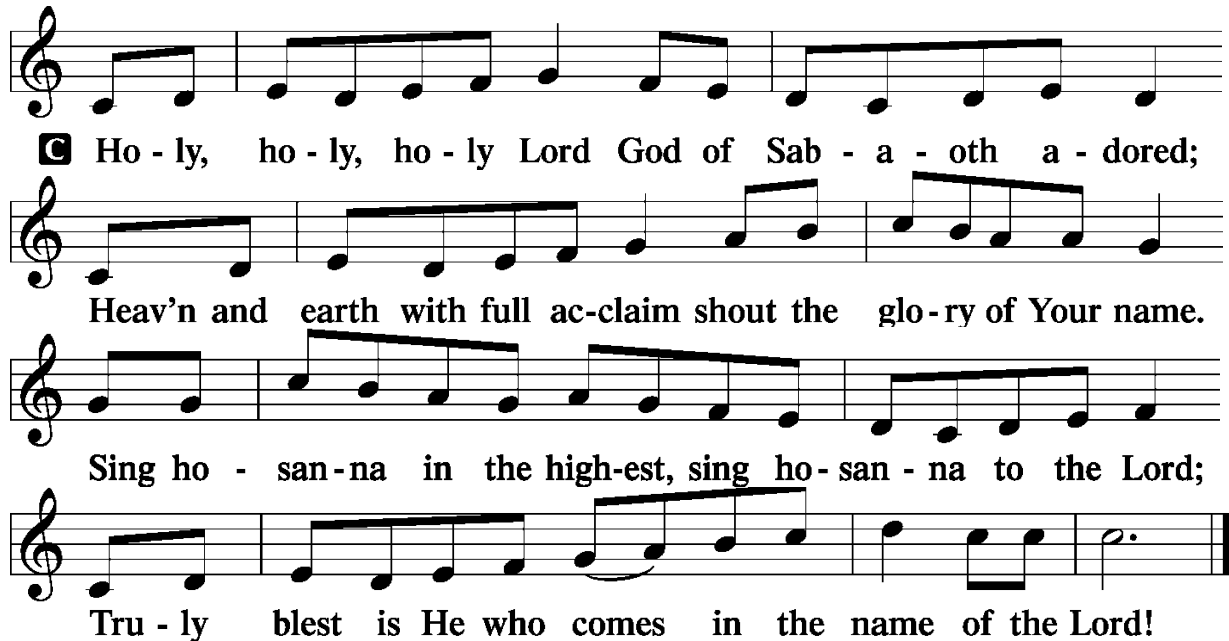
[Psalm 136]

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we

give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**C** 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

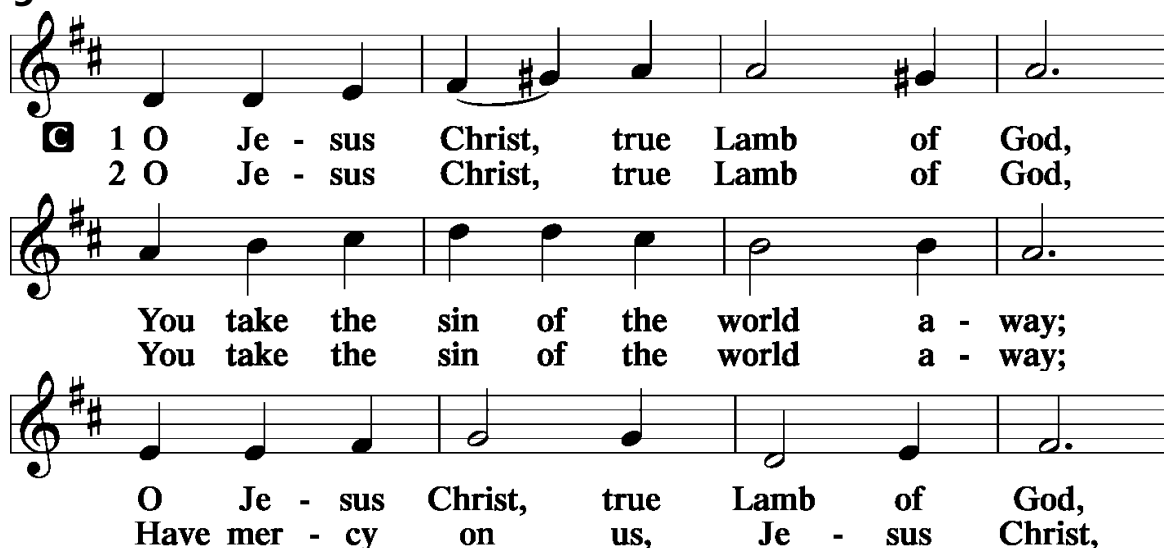
## Pax Domini

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

John 1:29



**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



## Distribution

*Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.*

*Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.*

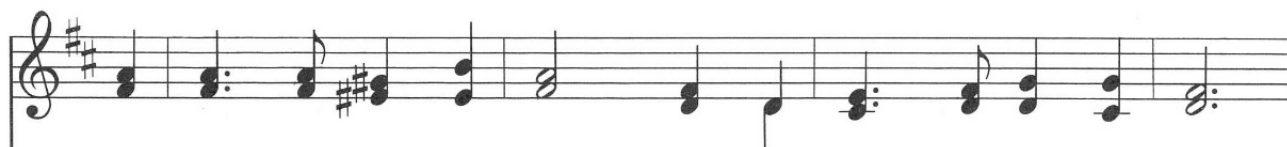
*Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.*

## Music at Distribution

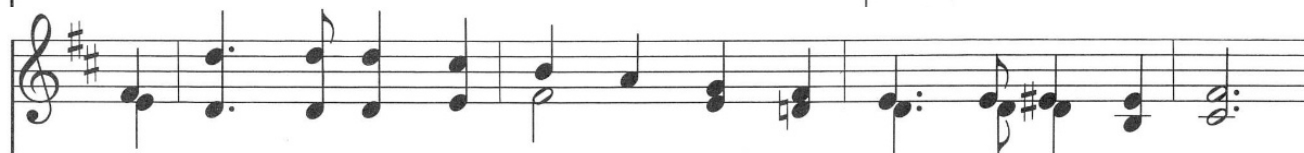
"Peace on Earth" (Joel Raney)  
(Handbell Choir)

# "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

(LBW 107)



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,



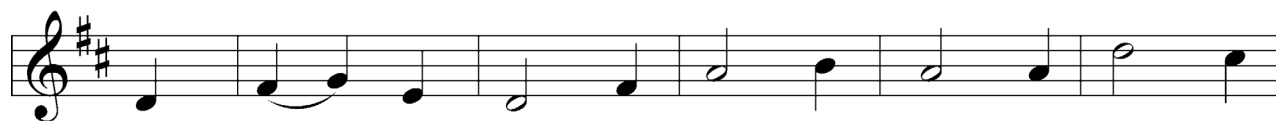
From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat And bur - dens of the day.  
The won - der of his glo - rious love And my un-wor - thi - ness.  
My sin - ful self my on - ly shame, My glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869  
© Tune: Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

ST. CHRISTOPHER  
76 86 86 86

# "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

(LSB 426)



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the  
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807

Text and tune: Public domain

## Dismissal

# Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2: 29-32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**L** Let us pray:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus and Benediction

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

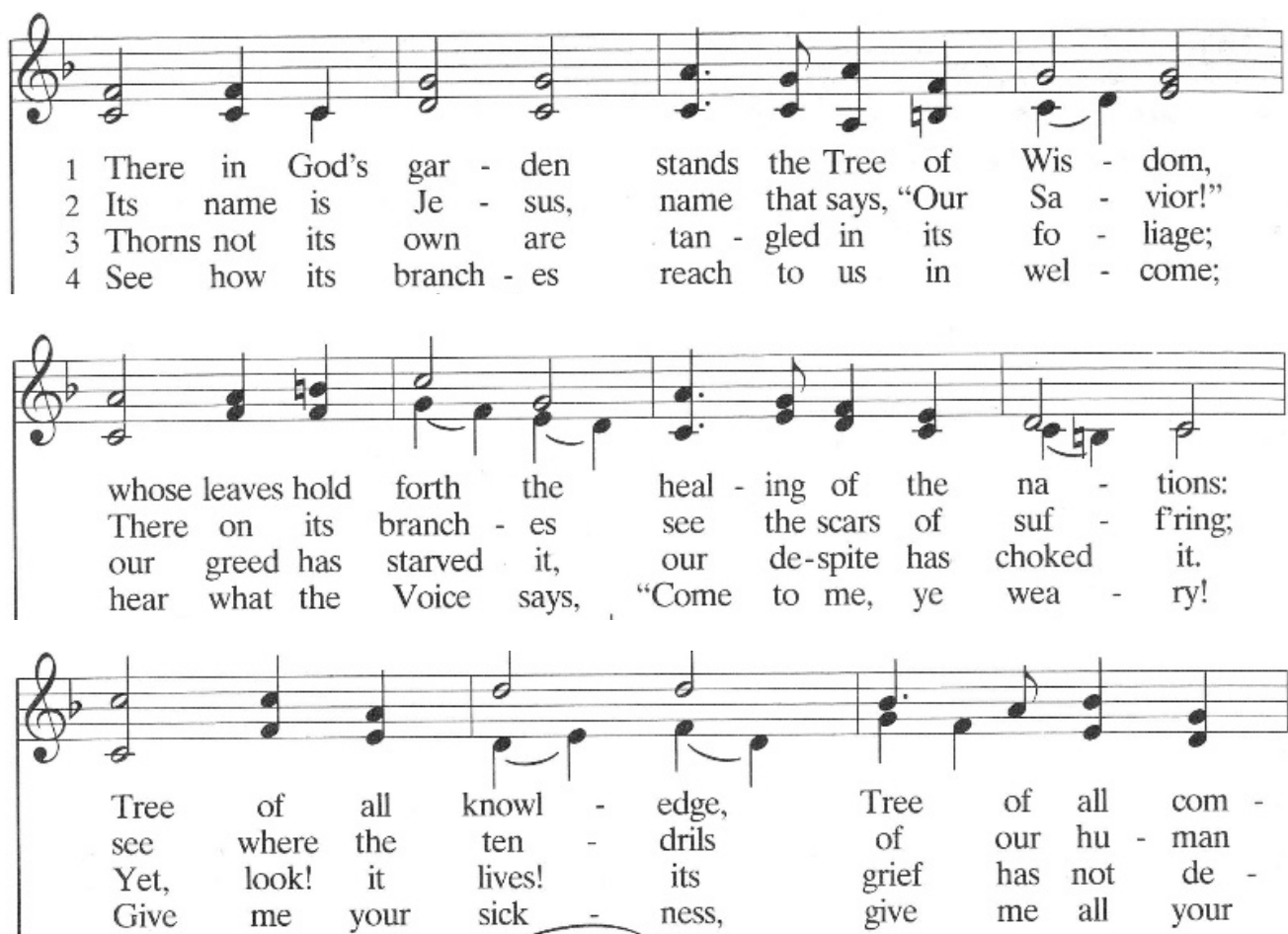
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

**C** Amen.

## Sending Hymn

"There in God's Garden" (WOV 668)

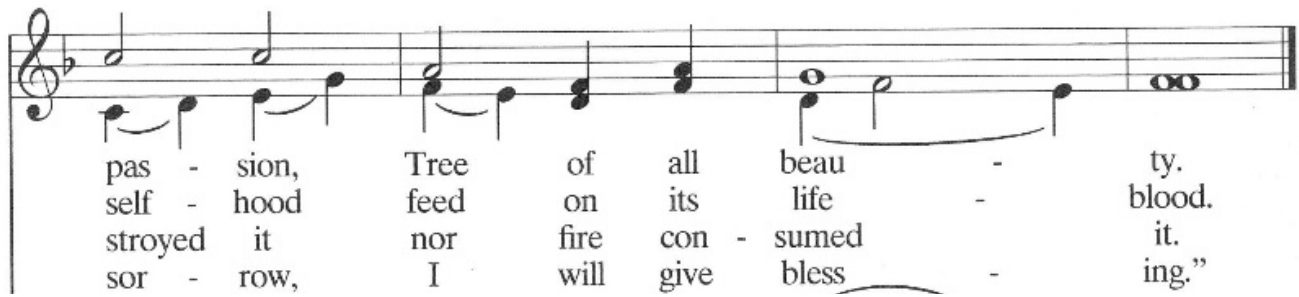


1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sa - vior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de-spite has choked it,  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see where the ten - drils of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your





5 This is my ending,  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose Passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!

## Postlude

"Grand Cheour" (Theodore Dubois)



## Our Ministry Of Worship

Guest Officiant/Preacher  
 Welcome/Children's Message  
 Lay Assistant  
 Communion Lay Assistant  
 Organist/Pianist  
 Acolyte  
 Crucifer  
 Usher  
  
 Altar Care  
 AV Operator  
  
 Welcome Host  
 Nursery

Rev. Jeff Kloha  
 Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship  
 Angie Stiens  
 Jennifer Hills  
 David Leahey, Director of Music  
 Luke Pflugradt  
 Giulianna Vazquez  
 Andrea Godwin  
 Joseph Godwin  
 Jean Gilbertson  
 Mark Gilbertson  
 Samuel Rempe  
 Jan Swicord  
 Melissa Malinowski  
 Lisa Goodell

## Acknowledgments

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**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**5952 Franconia Road**  
**Alexandria, VA 22310**



*A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

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Director of Music	David Leahey
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