Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School

Pentecost 16

September 6, 2026

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org

Pastor Zachary Pudlo
Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

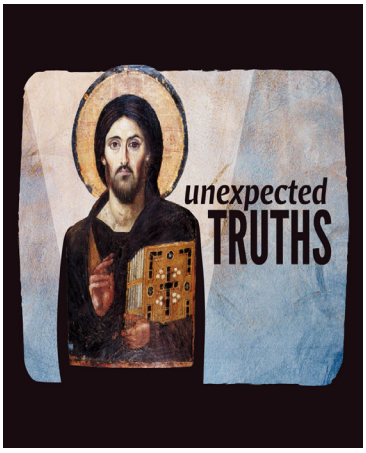
Sunday 9am Worship

Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

Welcome to our Worship Center

God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament.
As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Worship Focus



The opening lines of the United States Declaration of Independence boldly assert that certain truths are "self-evident"—truths accessible to human reason and widely recognized by observation of the world. Among these are that all people are created equal and possess unalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The founders appealed to principles they believed reasonable people could recognize simply by reflecting on human nature and justice. These truths were meant to be obvious, clear to the mind, and persuasive in the public square. Lutherans, however, note that the most important truths revealed in the Bible are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Scripture teaches that humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. It declares that salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God's grace. Most unexpected of all is the message that God brings forgiveness and eternal life through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

Our path through this Pentecost set of services is:

Aug 16	The Church is for All People	Sep 13	Forgiveness is for Me
Aug 23	The Son of Man is God	Sep 20	Grace is Amazing
Aug 30	Cross Comes Before the Crown	Sep 27	Real Repentance Looks Different
Sep 6	**I am My Brother's Keeper**		

When danger strikes, most people instinctively move away from it. Fire, violence, accidents, and disasters trigger a natural desire to find protection and safety. Yet first responders do the opposite. Firefighters, police officers, and paramedics run toward the very scenes others are fleeing. They enter burning buildings, approach violent situations, and kneel beside the injured in chaotic moments. This response is unexpected because it goes against basic human instinct. Today God calls us to be spiritual first responders when we see people in trouble because of sin. Instead of self-preservation and comfort, we choose service to them and to our Lord. Our motive is the grace of God and his desire for the salvation of all mankind.

VISITOR INFORMATION

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today! We invite you to stay after the service to chat and join us for coffee time.

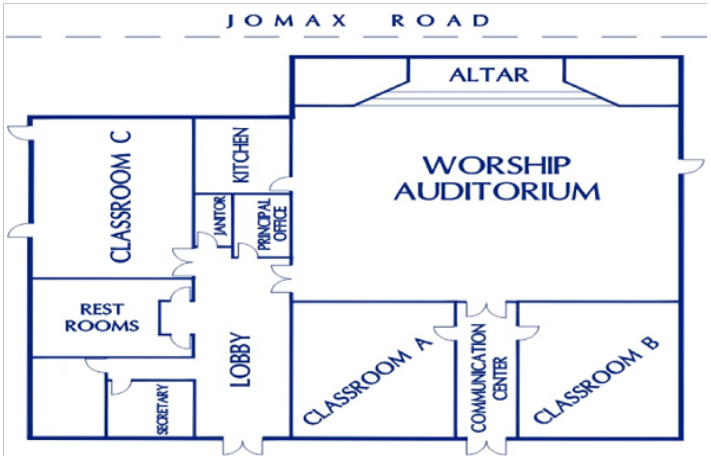
Would you like to learn more about us? We'd love to get to know you better as well. Connect with Cross of Glory by either:

Scanning this QR Code

--OR--

Emailing us at church. secretary@crossofglory.org

CHURCH MAP

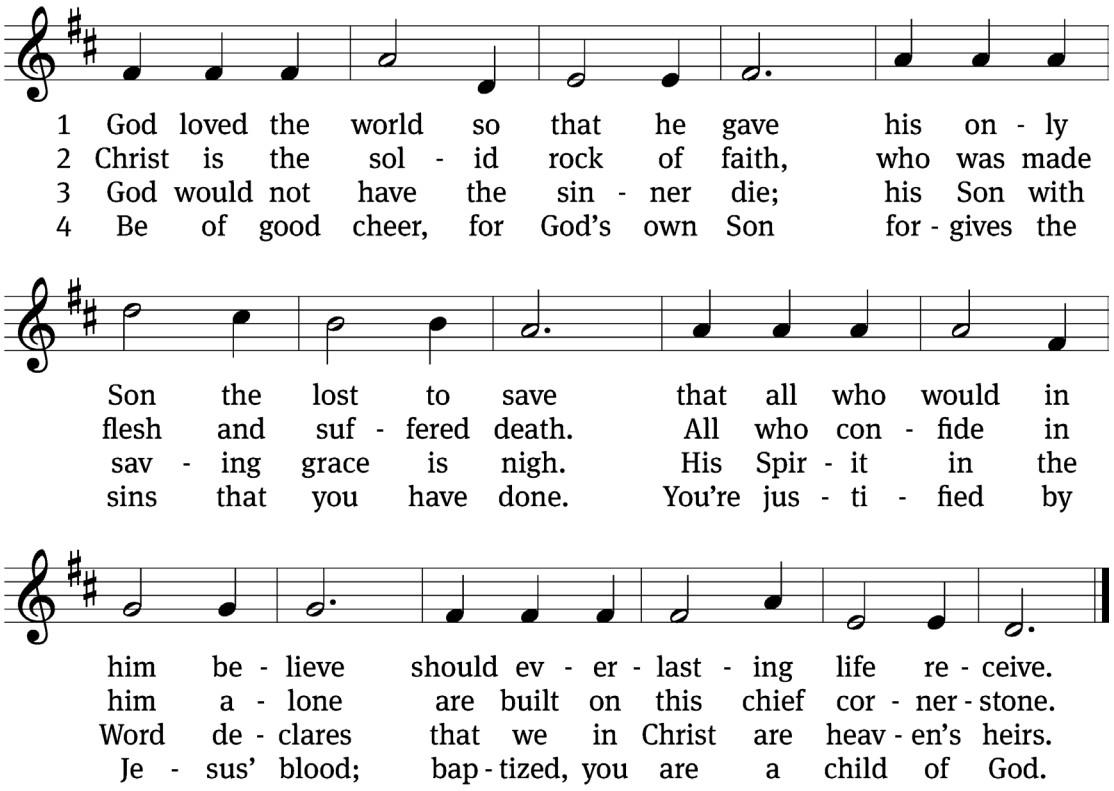


FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- **Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.**
- **Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult in Classroom A.**
- **Children in Church Program: Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. We encourage parents to guide their children through the service. We invite children to come forward for the Children's Message during the service. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!**

Opening Hymn: God Loved the World So That He Gave

CWH 570



Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens- Opffer, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893
Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn of praise, prayer, or reflection on the season of the church year.

We follow the advice of the Apostle Paul to "teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

(Colossians 3:16)

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

We call upon God to be present with us. We worship the triune God, remembering our Baptism in his name.

Confession and Absolution

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

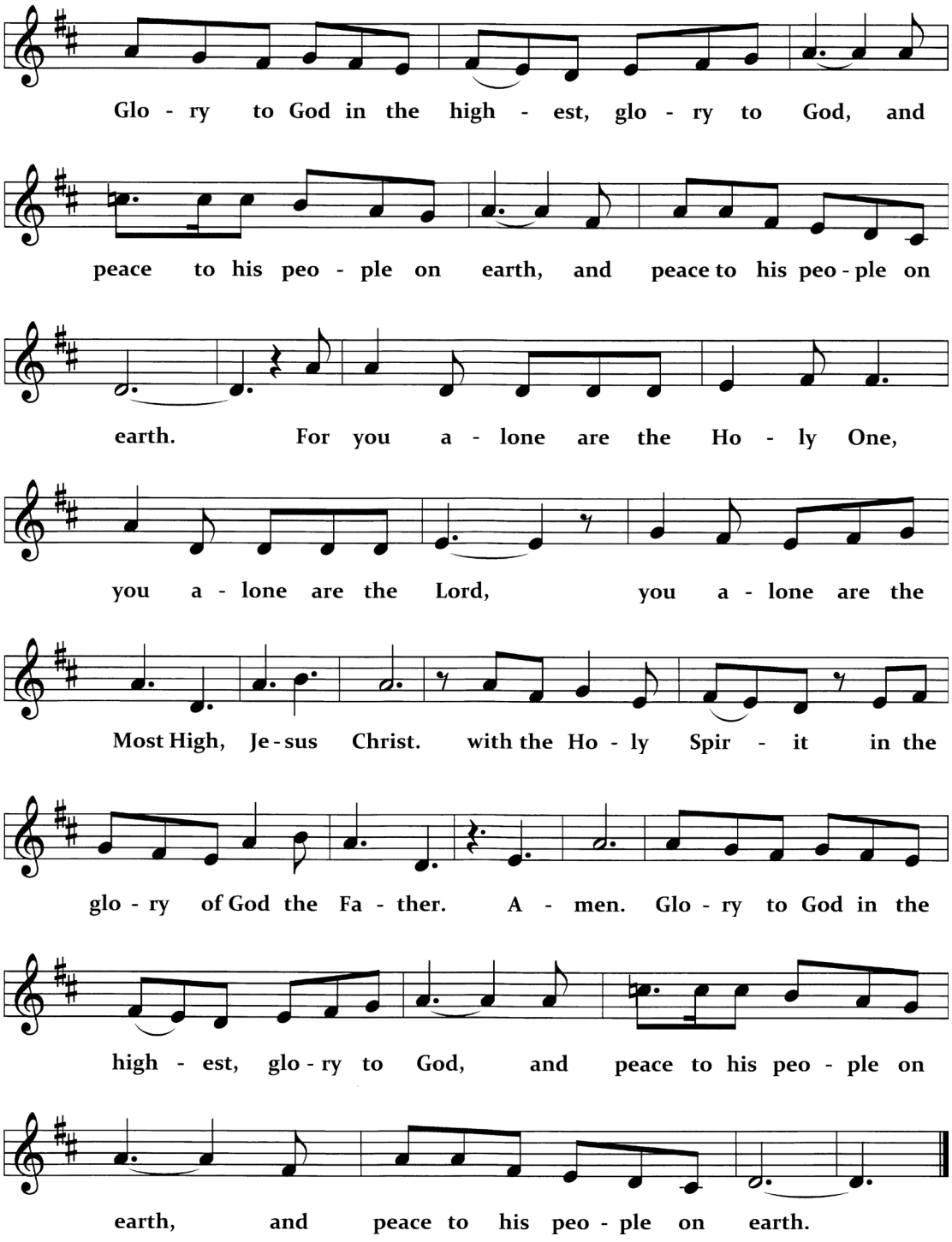
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. "

(I John 1:9)

Christ said to his disciples, "If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven". The pastor speaks for God and announces God's forgiveness to those who made confession.

Glory to God in the Highest

This hymn of praise gives the congregation the opportunity to praise God and express joy because Jesus is our victorious Savior.



The Word

Prayer of the Day

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The main thoughts of the day are collected or summarized in this short prayer.

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–11

7"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 8When I say to the wicked, 'You wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. 9But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

10"Son of man, say to the Israelites, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?" ' 11Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?'

The Lord told Ezekiel if he didn't warn the Israelites about their sin, he was going to hold Ezekiel accountable.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 72

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,

C: whose sins are covered.

M: Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them

C: and in whose spirit is no deceit.

M: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away

C: through my groaning all day long.

M: For day and night your hand was heavy on me;

C: my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

M: Then I acknowledged my sin to you

C: and did not cover up my iniquity.

M: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

C: And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

M: You are my hiding place;

C: you will protect me from trouble.

M: Many are the woes of the wicked,

C: but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.

The Book of Psalms was the Old Testament hymnbook, prayer and liturgy book. It was used by worshipers at the temple. Many of the Psalms are the basis for our hymns and part of our liturgy is taken from the Psalms. The word "Psalm" comes from the Greek and means "a song sung to the accompaniment of a stringed instrument."

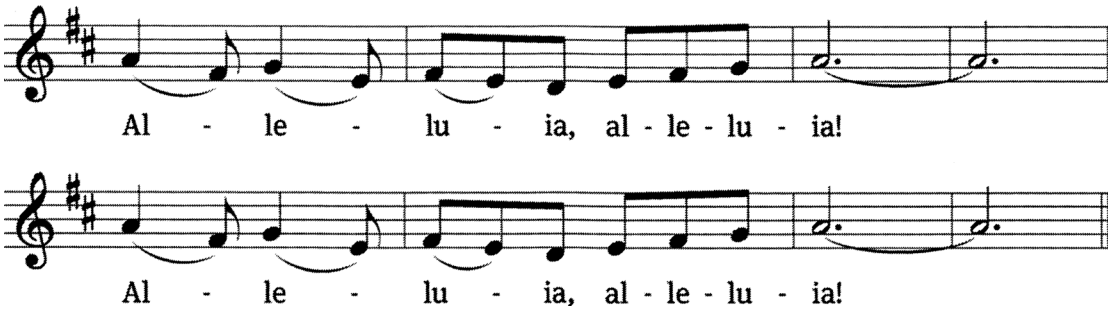
Children's Message

(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)

A verse from the Holy Scriptures is usually spoken to capture the theme of the service.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Timothy 2:4

M: Alleluia. God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Alleluia.

Jesus teaches us how to practice Christian discipline lovingly.

Gospel

Matthew 18:15–20

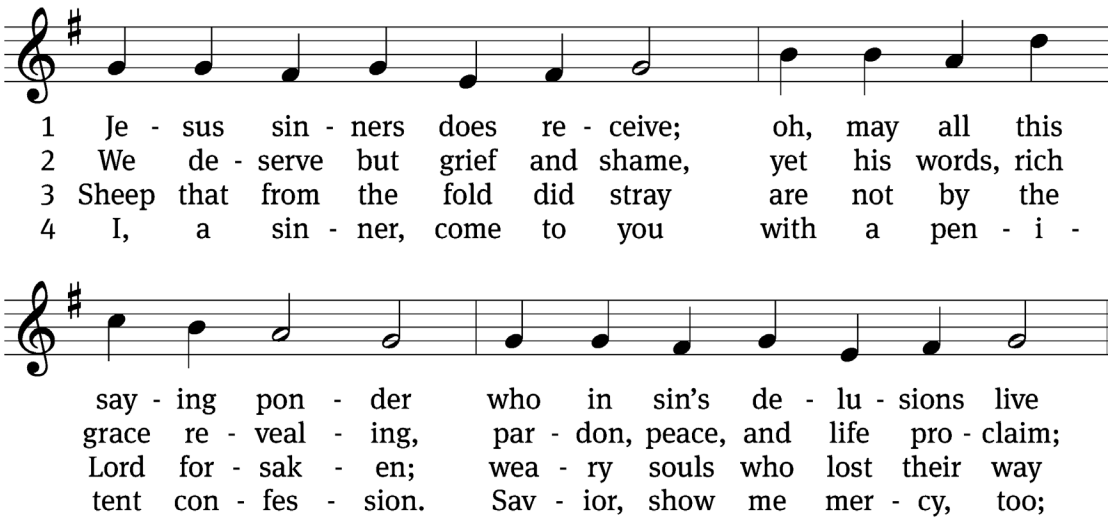
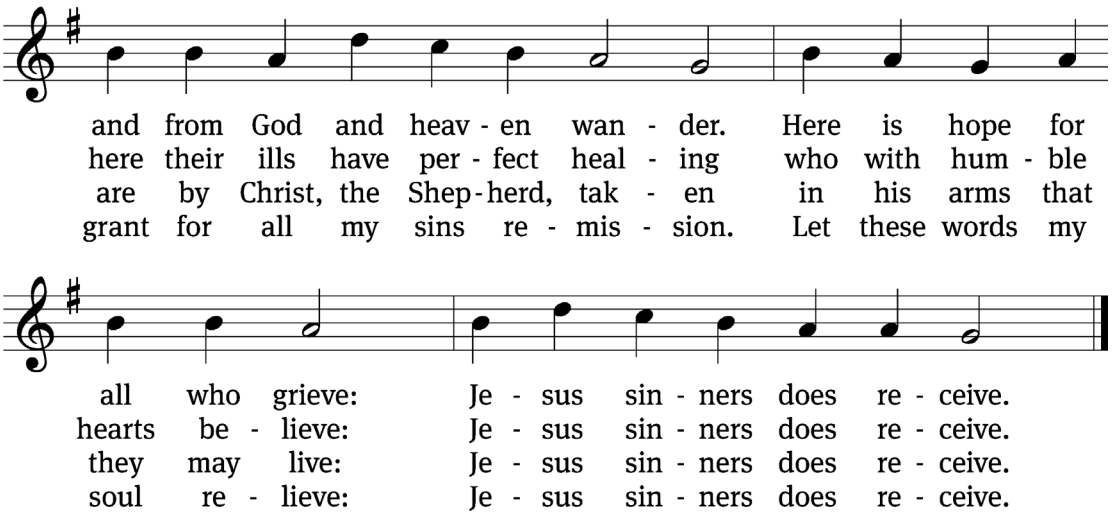
15 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between
the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they
will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be
established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If they still re-
fuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the
church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

18 "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything
they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where
two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Hymn of the Day: Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CWH 654

This hymn follows the theme of the readings and sets the stage for the sermon.



Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Galatians 2:11–16

In the sermon the Pastor proclaims God's Word and applies that word to modern life and problems. He stresses both what God demands of us (the Law) and what God does for us through Jesus Christ (the Gospel).

11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he
stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he used to
eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and
separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who
belonged to the circumcision group. 13 The other Jews joined him in his
hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a
Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow
Jewish customs?

15 "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles 16 know that a person
is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we,
too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in
Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law
no one will be justified.

Nicene Creed

After hearing the word of God, the worshiper responds with this confession of faith.

The Nicene Creed was written in 325 A.D. to address false ideas about the divinity of Jesus Christ. That explains why the second article of the Nicene Creed is longer than its counterpart in the Apostles' Creed.

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 him 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 and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Song of the Season: Ten Thousand Reasons

CWH 607

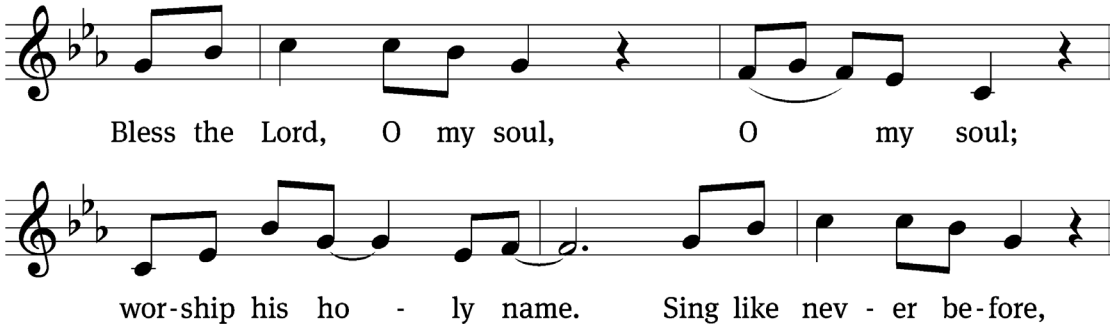
Cantors sing Vs. 1 ; Congregation joins for Vs. 2-3

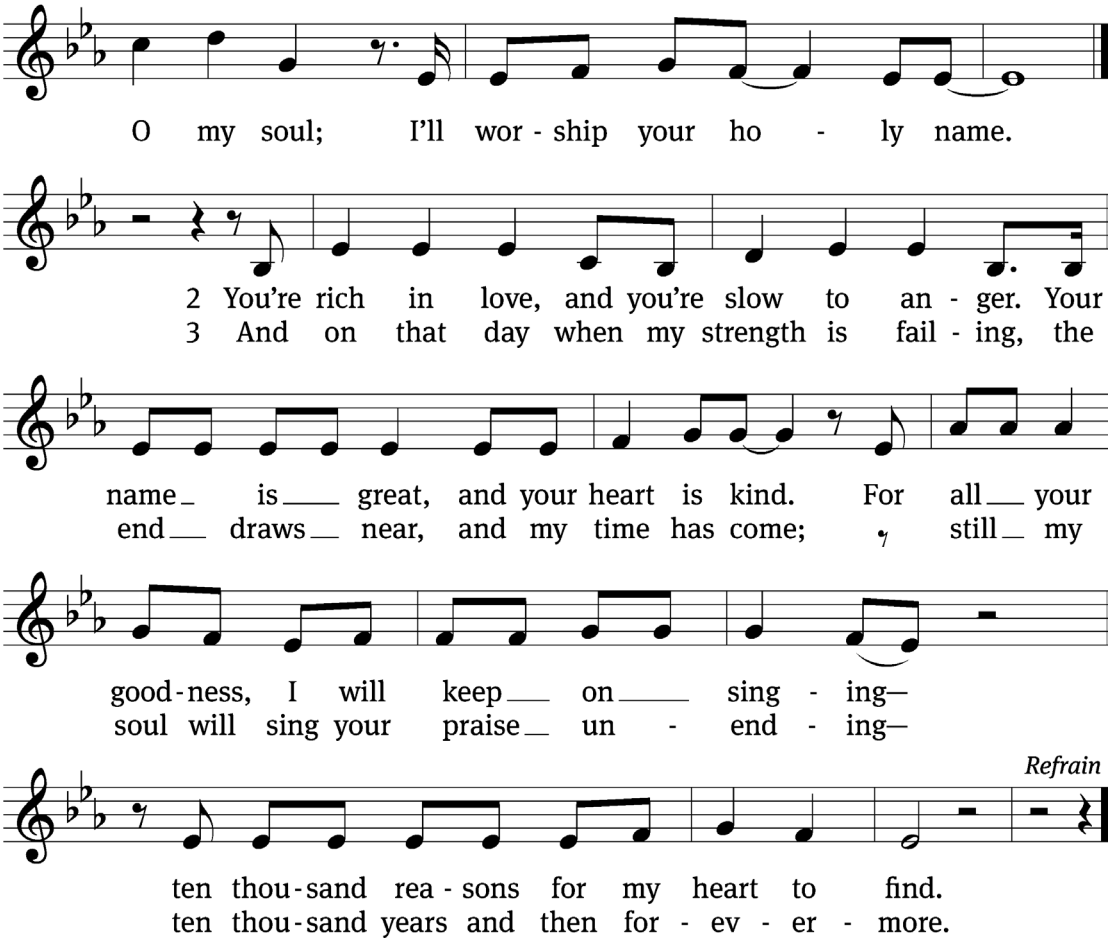
This is a hymn selected for the current church season that is generally new to our congregation, usually introduced first by a soloist, and repeated for several weeks to assist the congregation in learning the hymn.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Congregation sings:





Text: Jonas Myrin, b. 1982; Matt Redman, b. 1974 Tune: Jonas Myrin, b. 1982; Matt Redman, b. 1974
Text and tune: © 2011 Thankyou Music / Atlas Mountain Songs / Worship Together Songs / sixsteps Music, admin. Capitol-CMGPublishing,com. Used by permission: One License no. 711716-A

Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

If you brought a monetary gift today for the work of the church, please place your offering in the receptacle at one of the two entrances to the sanctuary either before or after the service.

Offering: The gifts of Gods people are a response to God's blessings. If God has moved you to thank him in this way, you can use this QR code to give an offering.

The Sacrament

Preface

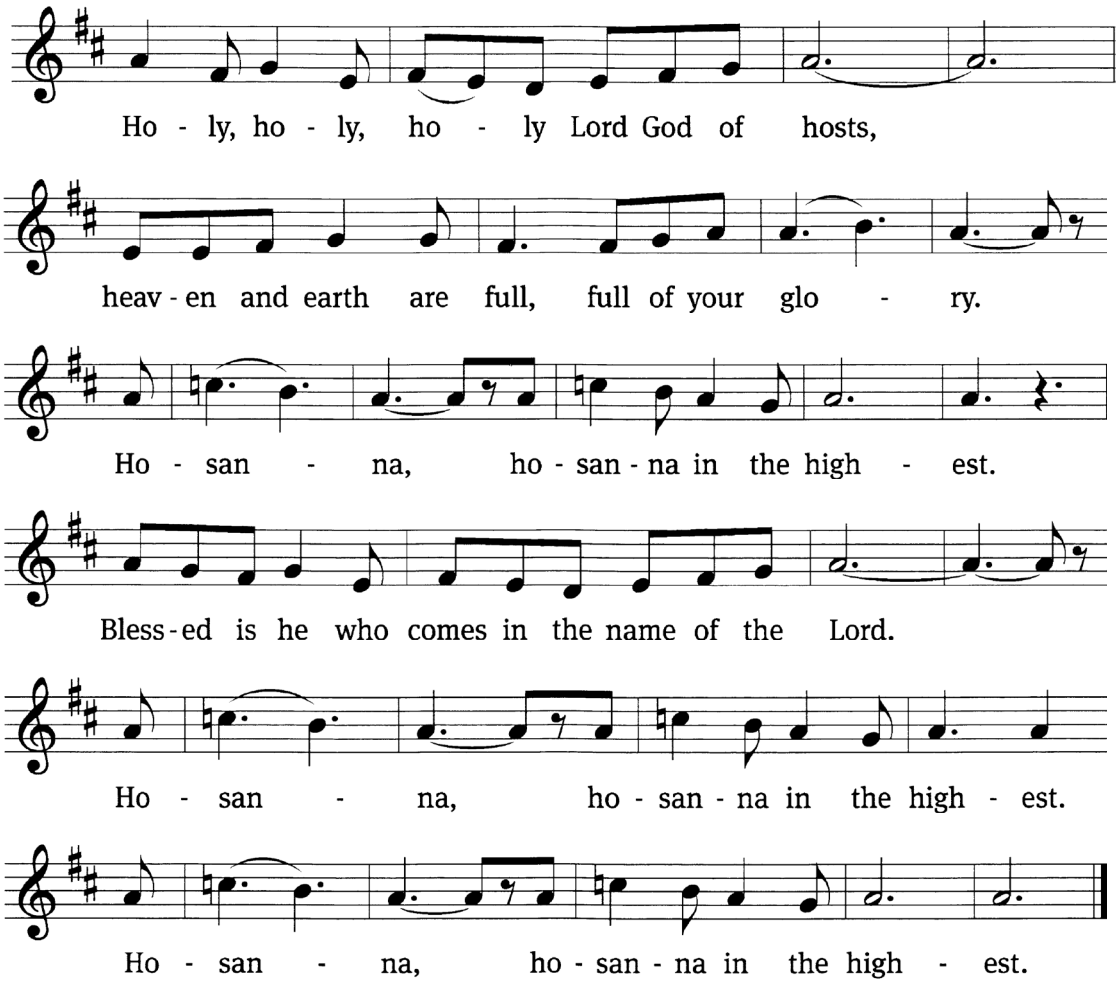
(Spoken Responsively)

The pastor and people prepare to celebrate the Holy Meal by greeting each other and with an exhortation as how to celebrate the meal.

M: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
M: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.
M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd

his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Sanctus is a Latin word meaning "Holy". The Sanctus contains words from Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3) and the crowd's response on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 21:9). We join them in spirit by singing their words as we anticipate Christ's coming in the sacrament.

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus (Sung by Congregation)

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman
Tune: © 2010 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God

our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Prayed in Unison)

We speak to God as our Father as Jesus taught us.

(Matthew 6)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Word of Institution

The pastor speaks the words which Jesus spoke when he instituted the Supper with his disciples in the Upper Room. With these words the bread and wine are consecrated, that is, set apart for God's use in this special meal.

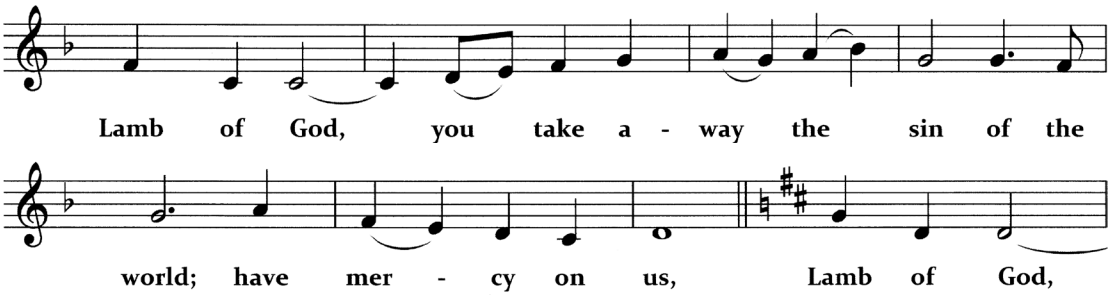
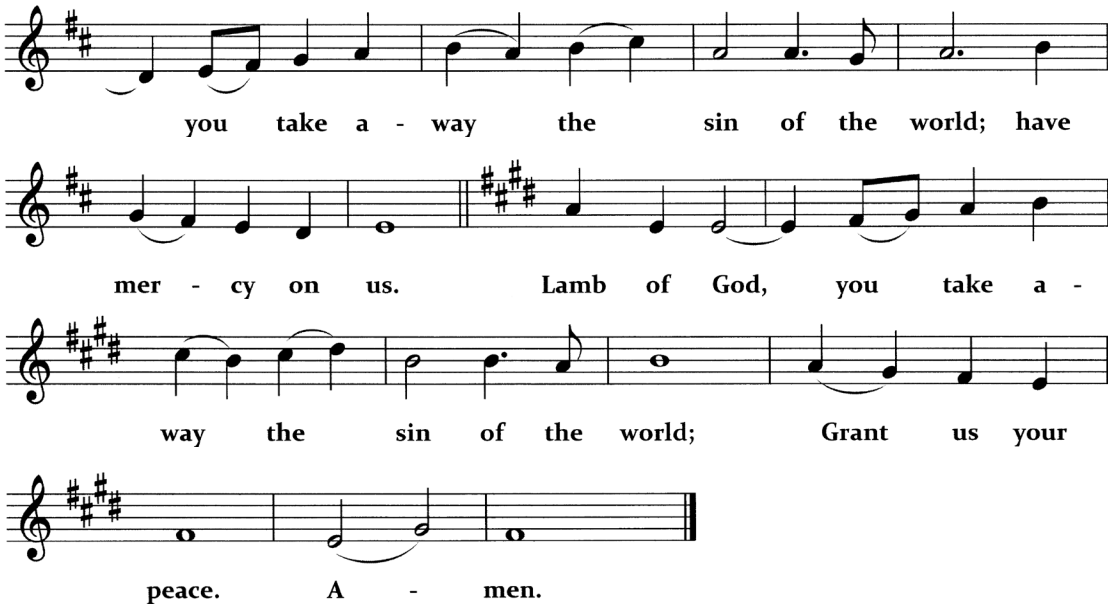
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Lamb of God Agnus Dei (Sung by Congregation)

Agnus Dei is a Latin phrase meaning "Lamb of God". John the Baptist spoke these words as he pointed to Jesus coming toward him (John 1:29). As Christ comes to us in the Holy Supper, we recognize him as the Lamb of God sacrificed for us to free us from the bondage of sin and death.



Distribution of Sacrament

Gluten-free wafers are available on the small tables at the front .

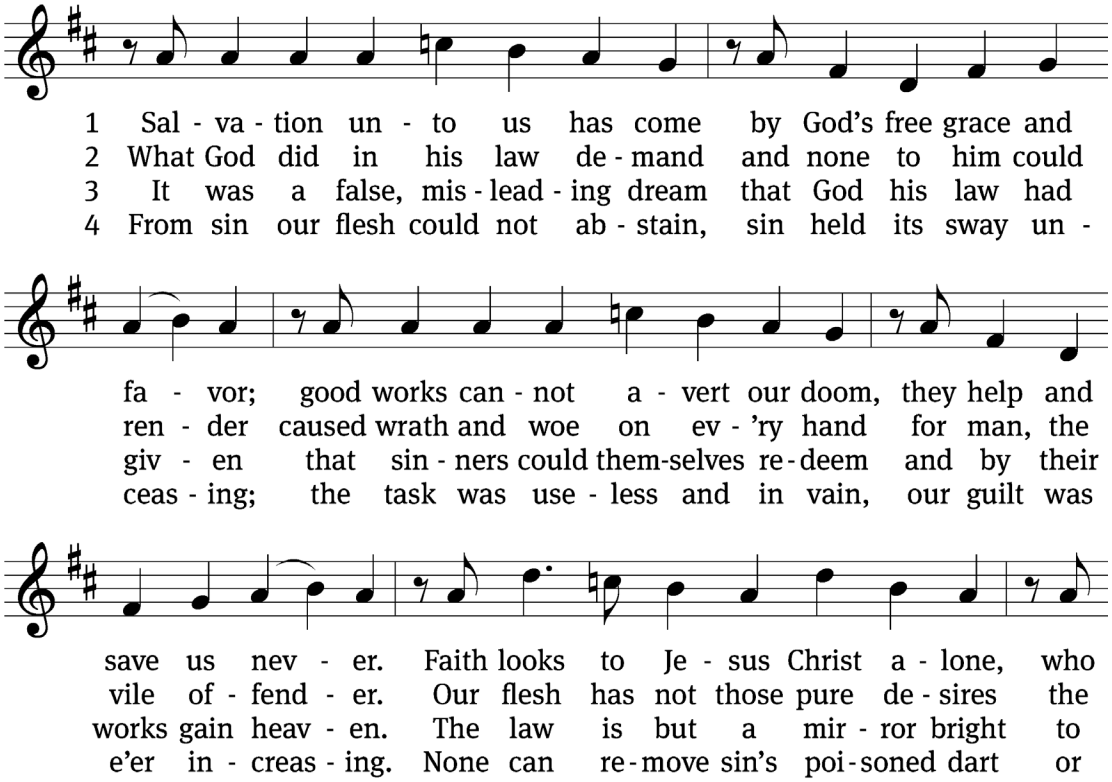
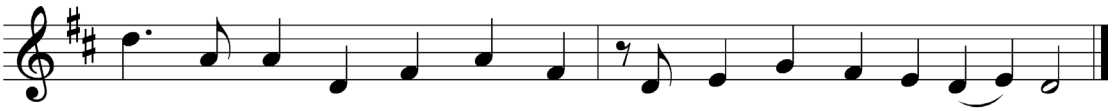
Alcohol-free white grape juice can be taken from the wine tray.

*We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to today, you should speak with our pastor before the service. We would like to help you establish the unity which comes from a common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) before expressing that union together at the Lord's Table. It is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God's Word. Those who have established that connection as members of sister WELS or ELS congregations may register by checking the box in the attendance record book at the end of your row. Thank you for honoring our practice.*

Distribution Hymn: Salvation unto Us Has Come

CWH 558

This is a hymn sung by the congregation during the distribution of the Lord's Supper.



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.
spir - it of the law re - quires, and lost is our con - di - tion.
bring the in - bred sin to light that lurks with - in our na - ture.
pu - ri - fy our wick - ed heart, so deep is our cor - rup - tion.

Yet as the law must be fulfilled
or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
our human nature sharing.
He has for us the law obeyed
and thus the Father's vengeance stayed
which over us impended.

Since Christ has full atonement made
and brought to us salvation,
each Christian therefore may be glad
and build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
your death is now my life indeed,
for you have paid my ransom.

Let me not doubt, but truly see
your Word cannot be broken;
your call rings out, "Come unto me!"
No falsehood have you spoken.
Baptized into your precious name,
my faith cannot be put to shame,
and I shall never perish.

The law reveals the guilt of sin
and makes us conscience-stricken;
but then the gospel enters in
the sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
the law no peace can ever give,
no comfort and no blessing.

Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
and rests in him unceasing;
and by its fruits true faith is known,
with love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
works serve our neighbor and supply
the proof that faith is living.

All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
to Father, Son, and Spirit,
the God who saved us by his grace;

all glory to his merit!
O triune God in heav'n above,
you have revealed your saving love;
your blessèd name be hallowed!

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr., alt.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524 Text and tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving and Proclamation (Spoken Responsively)

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
C: his mercy endures forever.
M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

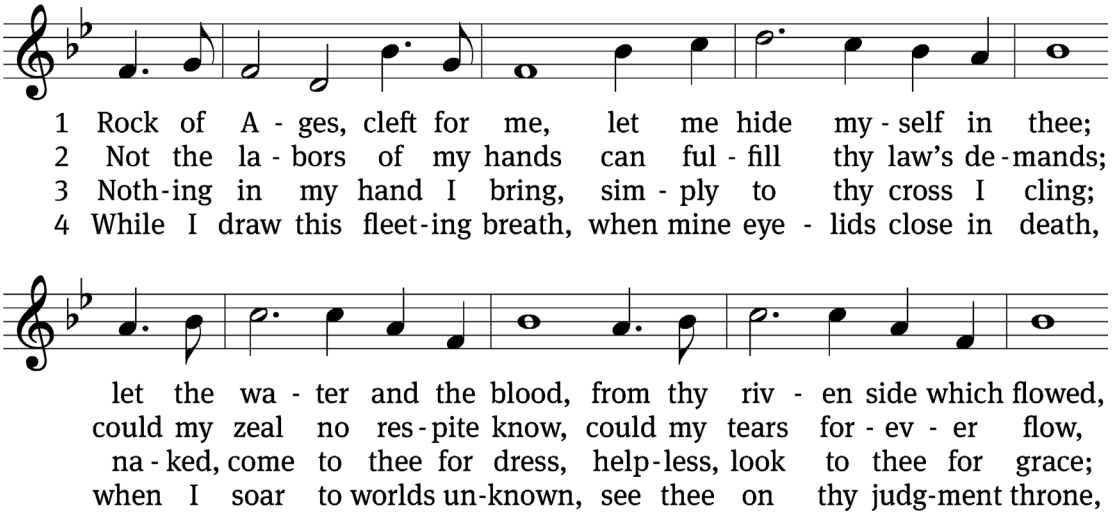
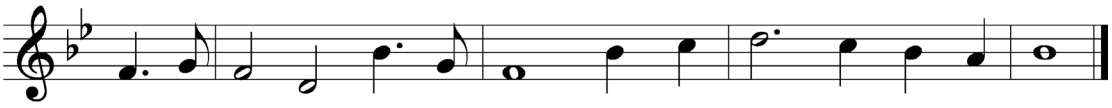
We offer our thanks and express our faith in what God has done for us and has promised to do for us in the future.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

The Aaronic Blessing is the blessing that Aaron and his sons were to speak over the people of Israel, recorded in Numbers 6:23–27. The pastor offers the same blessing to the congregation as they are about to conclude their worship.

Closing Hymn: Rock of Ages CWH 839



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778, alt. Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

Ways to Serve

Worship Volunteers	September 6th	September 13th	September 20th
Counters	Maggie Stevenson Nancy Murphy	Karin Hansen Becky Jahns	Bob Decker Len Collyard
Communion	Andrea		Dawn
Greeters	Jeffers Family	Langum Family	Plitzuweit Family
Ushers	Cody Hall Timothy Hall David Conklin	Pedro Contreras Carl Deines Matthw Deines	Len Collyard Nick Nickolai Steve Semmann
Sunday Refreshments	Shannon Gullerud Heidi Pudlo	Rene Koutia Korrin Deines	Ashley Call Maggie Stevenson Ally Kelley
A/V	Stacey Aguilar Andrew Aguilar	Hailey Ditter Joel Ditter	Shannon Gullerud Aaron Gullerud

Acknowledgments

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Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School

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WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

The continuing purpose of this congregation as a gathering of Christians is to spread to all people in God's world the glory of the cross of Christ, by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.