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worship begins**

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Rev. Lyndon Sayers, Pastor

HOLY CROSS SUNDAY

God's love for us is rooted in the cross and the gift of liberation for all people.

September 14, 2025 – 10:00 AM

All Creation Sings

Holy Communion Setting Twelve

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Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
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.

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!

Amen.

Gathering Song
***O God beyond All Praising* – No. 880**

Vs. 1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you
today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your
word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Vs. 2 The flow'r of earthly splendour in time must
surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden
grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set
us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.

Vs. 3 Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love
we bring,
that we who know your favour may serve you as our
King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless
you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Greeting

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

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.

Hymn of Praise

Vs. 1 Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours is the promise, the blessing, the birth.
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame;
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.

Vs. 2 Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the hosannas, the dying, rebirth.
Ours the rejoicing for nature reclaimed;
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.

Vs. 3 Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the anointing, the radiant worth.

Ours the rejoicing for spirits aflame;
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.

Psalm 84

¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!

² **My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

³ Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴ **Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

Refrain: *How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD
of hosts!*

⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶ **As they go through the valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

⁷ They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸ **O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!**

Refrain: *How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD
of hosts!*

⁹ Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.

**¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better than a
thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a
doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in
the tents of wickedness.**

¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows
favour and honour. No good thing does
the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹² O LORD of hosts,

happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Refrain: *How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD
of hosts!*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

John 3:13-17



Jesus of Mt. Finlayson
Credit: Lyndon Sayers

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Hymn of the Day

For God So Loved the World - Haugen

Choir sings verses; congregation sings refrain.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

John 3:16, adapt. M.H.

Marty Haugen



Affirmation of Baptism

Presentation

...We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Affirmation

...People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us...

Stir up in these people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Prayers of the People

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Peace Sharing

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

Offering Song
***Deep Peace* – No. 1018**

Deep peace of the running waves,
deep peace of the flowing air,
deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth.

Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our
thanks and praise.**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs

Holy God, Holy and Glorious – No. 637

Vs. 1 Holy God, holy and glorious,
glory most sublime,
you come as one among us
into human time,
and we behold your glory.

Vs. 2 Holy God, holy and powerful,
power without peer,
you bend to us in weakness;
emptied you draw near,
and we behold your power.

Vs. 3 Holy God, holy and beautiful,
beauty unsurpassed,
you are despised, rejected;
scorned, you hold us fast,
and we behold your beauty.

Vs. 4 Holy God, holy and only wise,
wisdom of great price,
you choose the way of folly:
God the crucified,
and we behold your wisdom.

Vs. 5 Holy God, holy and living one,
life that never ends,
you show your love by dying,
dying for your friends,
and we behold you living.

***You Are Holy* – No. 525**

You are holy, you are whole.

You are always ever more
than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near.

Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy,
you are wholeness,
you are present.

Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest!

Sing hosanna!

Sing hosanna to our God!

***This Is Christ's Body* – No. 967**

This is Christ's body, broken and blest.
Feed us with mercy and love. (with mercy and love.)
We are Christ's body, broken and blest.
Heal us and make us one.

Sending Song

Go to the World – No. 991

Vs. 1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Vs. 2 Go to the world! Go into ev'ry place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Vs. 3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Vs. 4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry, Amen!"
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Dismissal... Thanks be to God!

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Don Storch

Kantor: Nathan McDonald

Musician: Karen Johnson-Lefsrud

Choral Scholar: DJ McGrath

Livestream: Christopher McDonald

Reader: Jane Wicksteed

Communion: Marge Adams, Jane Wicksteed

Ushers: Bob Kohlert, Grant Froyland

*You are invited to Holy Communion Worship, Sundays,
10 AM PT in-person and online.*

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for the Crossroads newsletter, calendar and events.

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