

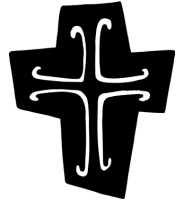
Holy Cross Day + September 14, 2025 + 9:00 am



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue - Racine, Wisconsin 53403
(262) 634-7998

<https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine>

<https://www.racinelcredeemer.com>



WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We are so glad you are here!

*Hymns marked as ELW may be found in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal and hymns marked as WOV may be found in the blue With One Voice hymnal. Assembly responses are in **bold typeface**.*

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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.

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

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" ELW #857

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth
to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Text: Rick Founds, b. 1954

Music: Rick Founds

Text and music © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Music Services

LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME

P/M

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.

Gloria

Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
I Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain

for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-

est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

A - men. A - men. A - men.

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ 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." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 98:1-4

The LORD has done marvelous things. (Ps. 98:1)

- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- ² **O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**
- ³ 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.
- ⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

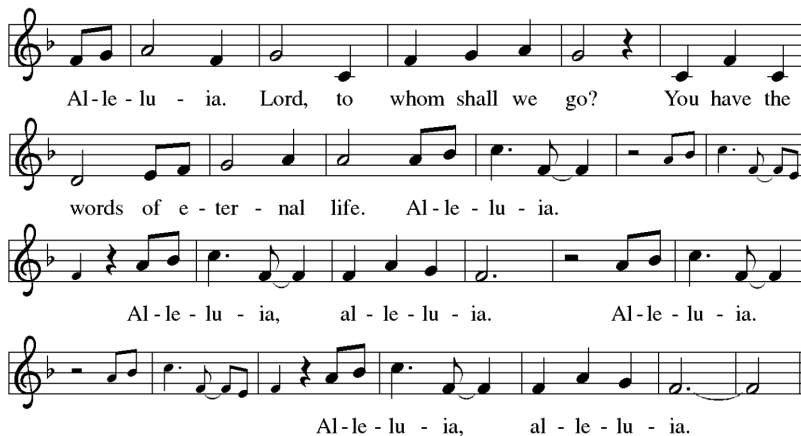
The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ 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? ²¹ 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. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.***

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord

Gospel

John 3:13-17

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "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.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" ELW #324



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

CREED

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

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.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

Prayers of Intercession

*The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need.
Each petition ends with: God of grace, **receive our prayer.***

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Carmen Falk Merlin Gandrud, Tom Johnson, Mario Miranda, Lynda, Estie Marnell, Sheila Fair, Cherie Julius, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Missy Hoffman, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs.

Sharing of the Peace

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering


Throughout the month of September the Noisy Offering will go toward Outreach For Hope and their Run/Ride/Walk event that will be held on Saturday, September 27th.




*There are many ways to give to support Redeemer! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the left with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). **Thank you for your generosity!***

Offering Song


Refrain



Kwa - ke Ye - su na - si - ma - ma, ndi - ye
Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand. He's the



mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma. Ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la -
sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my



ma, ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma.
life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.

2 It is not the work of my hands that has
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise. *Refrain*

Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966
Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer
Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik
English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. **Lord of the harvest,**

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.**

**Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

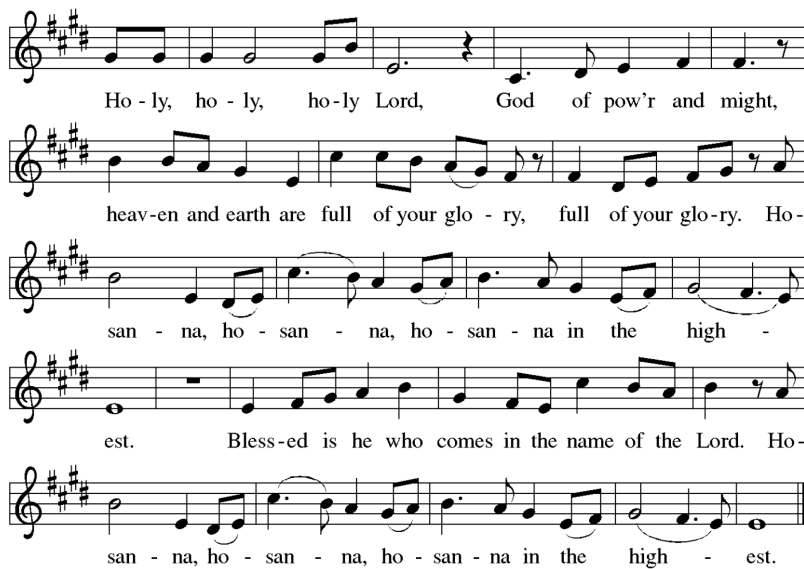
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presiding Minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.

The Assembly responds when prompted:

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

*The prayer concludes: **Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Feel free to pray this Ecumenical Lord's Prayer, or the more traditional version, or heck, pray it in a different language if you know it!

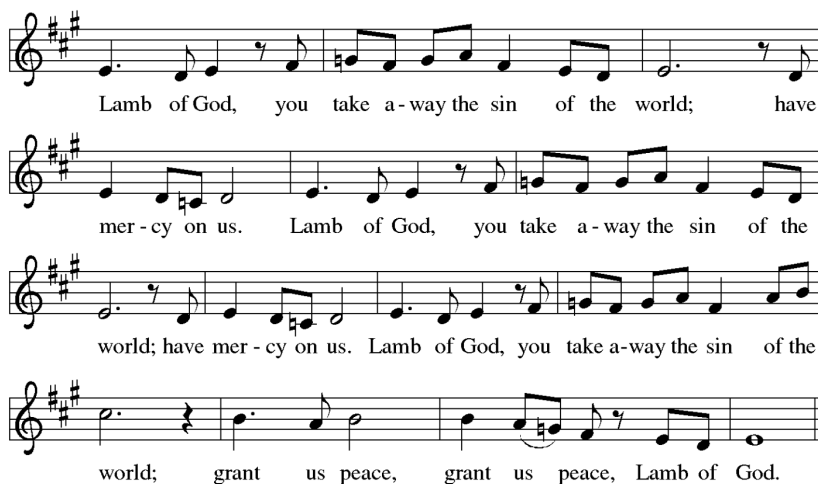
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

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

Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution Song

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" ELW #335



- 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;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. **O God,**

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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"Lift High the Cross" ELW #660
Words and music on rear page.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:

Usher:

John Wosyk

Assisting Minister:

Nancy Vandewinckel

Reader:

Susan Krikau Sorensen

Altar Guild:

Lori Rennock & Susan Krikau Sorensen

Musician:

Paul Berge

Pastor:

The Rev. Matt James



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Sending Hymn

"Lift High the Cross" ELW #660

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 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!