



“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.”
1 Corinthians 1:18

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holy Cross Day – September 14, 2025

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.

Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

You are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew as desired. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, you are invited to offer a prayer for God to lead, guide, nourish, and use you in worship this morning. You can use these or other words:

“Lord, I come to honor you in worship today. I ask that all the things of this week that can crowd you out of my heart be set aside by the power of your Holy Spirit. Open my heart and mind to meet you and receive you today. Amen.”

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING

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

***GREETING**

Followers of Christ, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, God loves you!

May the truth of this great love story shine through our worship today,
and renew our sense of calling.

So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements;
come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;
come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy for us.

Come, in love for God, for each other, and for the world,
to listen for God’s Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling.

Followers of Christ

May 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.**
Let us worship!

***GATHERING HYMN *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)**

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!

***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. But first, let us consider: Where have we gone wrong this week? How have we harmed our relationship with God, with our neighbor, and with ourselves? (*a brief silence for reflection*)

Let us pray: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God

Refrain



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



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



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

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,



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



praise you for your glo - ry.

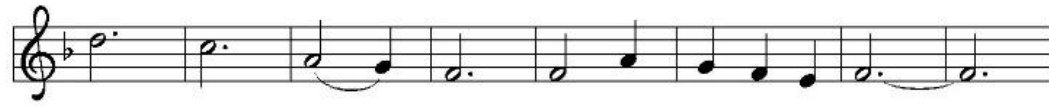
Refrain



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



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in 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, and peace



to God's peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the



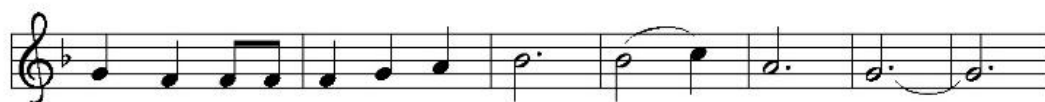
high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



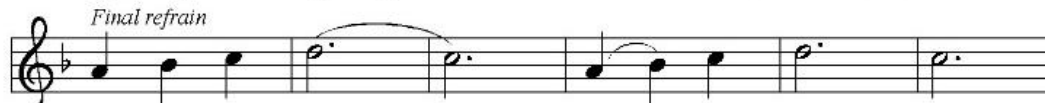
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



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



Final refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



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.**

PRESENTATION OF NEW BIBLES

When people were baptized, people promised on their behalf to “bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer.”

In our support of their faith, we now place in their hands the Bible that they will use in Sunday School this year, a version that helps them know the holy scriptures more and more as they grow and learn and enter a new chapter of their faith formation.

I invite our presenters to bring the Bibles forward at this time.

And repeat after me:

Receive this Bible.

Hear God’s word with us.

Learn and tell its stories.

Discover its mysteries.

Honor its commandments.

Rejoice in its good news.

*May God’s life-giving word
inspire you and make you wise.*

Students, I invite you to repeat after me:

We receive these Bibles

with our hands,

our hearts,

and our minds.

Together, let us lift up these individuals and their new Bibles!

We rejoice in this step in your journey with God.

**We pray God will guide you, your family, and us
as you use this Holy Bible in your home,**

in your Sunday School classes, and in our worship.

We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from Numbers.

[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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38

The psalm is read responsively. The leader will read the light printed verses.

The congregation will read the bolded verses.

¹ Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

² **I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

³⁴ Whenever God slew them, they would seek God, and repent, and diligently search for God.

³⁵ **They would remember that God was their rock,
and the Most High God their redeemer.**

³⁶ But they flattered God with their mouths and lied to God with their tongues.

³⁷ **Their heart was not steadfast, and they were not faithful to the covenant.**

³⁸ Yet God, being merciful, forgave their sins and did not destroy them;
holding back anger many times and not giving way to wrath.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹⁸ 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,

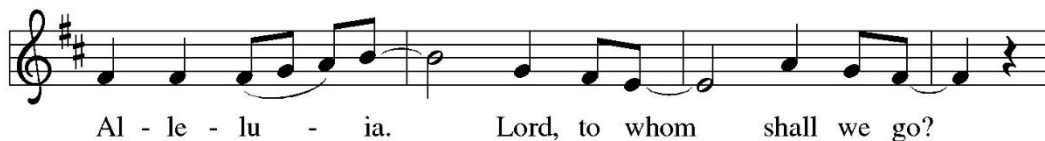
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

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 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.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: John 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON and SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Beautiful Things* (ACS 925)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)

1. All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way?
I wonder if my life could really change at all?

Refrain

*You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us*

2. All this Earth
Could all that is lost ever be found?
Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

Refrain

*You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us*

3. All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos, life is being found in You

Refrain

*You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us*

***APOSTLES' 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,

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

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

(a brief silence)

Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey and protect us from division and doubt. 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. 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. 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 Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list and all who suffer in any way. Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they 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. 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 them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of life, we do not come to honor you alone. Thank you for those with whom we worship today – both here and in eternity. We especially remember before you those whose joys and concerns we carry with us in our worship (*blue prayer cards are read*). Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayer to the one who always listens; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

***PEACE**

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

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves in response to God's faithfulness.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Christ Is the Life* (ACS 927) *Rise on verse 4*



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

***OFFERING 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 also 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,

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

san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;
When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

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.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:
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 COMMUNION

You are invited to come to the table of grace; receive the gift of new life.

We come to this table not because we must but because we may,
not because we are strong, but because we are weak.

We come, not because any goodness of our own gives us a right to come,
but because we need mercy and help.

We come, because we love the Lord and would like to love him more.

We come, because he loved us and gave himself for us.

We come and meet the risen Christ together.

Come and taste the truth of God's love, for God's love is for you!

Thanks be to God!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

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.

COMMUNION HYMN *Come to the Table* (ACS 961) (3 times through)

Part I

Come to the ta - ble, come to the ta - ble.

Part II

Come one, come all. Come one, come all.

All is now read - y, come one and all. Come, oh, come.

Come one, come all. Come one, come all.

COMMUNION HYMN *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power* (ELW 651)

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*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.

Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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 SONG *What Wonderful Love is This* (ELW 666)**



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

***SENDING PRAYER**

Holy One, we thank you for all that you have given us. We thank you for the relationships with which you have blessed us, the guidance you have given us in your word, and the support, healing, and love you have fed us with at your table. Take away our sin and carry us into the week with the new beginning we have in your promised forgiveness. Lead us this week to be your hands, your feet, and your voice in the world. **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’

And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’”

Isaiah 6:8

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Valerie C

Acolyte: Ella N

Offering: Lydia M and Cate S

Greeters:

Attendance from last week: 64 +2 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

We are so accustomed to the **cross** as the primary symbol of the Christian faith that we forget that it was not until the time of the Emperor Constantine, who outlawed crucifixions in the fourth century, that Christians used it to signify the faith. John's interpretation of the story from Numbers illustrates how religious imagery gains one layer of meaning on top of another. From a Canaanite goddess symbol (the snake on a tree pole in Numbers), through an Israelite story of God's saving power (the story in Numbers), into the Roman Empire's practice of the execution of the lowliest criminals, into our churches and onto our bodies, the cross is for Christians the symbol that in God, death is transformed into the entry into new life. In medieval church art, it was common to depict the two scenes side-by-side: the serpent on the pole and Christ on the cross. So in John's use of the Numbers story, it is as if Christ saves us from the poison of sin.

Today's Music

Lift High the Cross. Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Beautiful Things. Text: Michael Gungor, b. 1980, and Lisa Gungor, b. 1982, Music: Michael Gungor and Lisa Gungor. Capitol CMG Publishing.

Christ Is the Life. Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953-2021, Music: Kenneth Naylor, 1931-1991. Augsburg Fortress.

Come to the Table. Text: Jennifer Baker-Trinity, b. 1976, Music: Jennifer Baker-Trinity. Augsburg Fortress.

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power. Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1945-2022, Music: Carol Doran, b. 1936. Oxford University Press (New York).

What wonderful Love is This. Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt., Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

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Invitation to the Table, adapted from "Invitations to the Table" by Phil Whittall, © 2025 The Simple Pastor

Next Week's Readings

Amos 8:4-7 Warnings to those who trample on the needy and poor

Psalms 113 The Lord lifts up the poor from the ashes

1 Timothy 2:1-7 One God, one mediator – Christ Jesus – who gave himself for all people

Luke 16:1-13 A shrewd manager: faithful in little, faithful in much; serving God/wealth