



HOLY CROSS SUNDAY

September 14, 2025 at 8:45am & 11:15am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church & School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

THE GATHERING

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.

PRELUDE

Sonata No. 1, Op. 65 – II. Adagio
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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!

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.

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.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

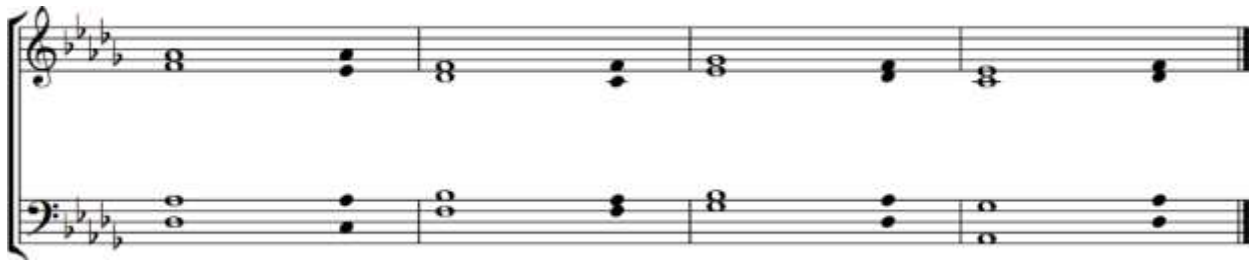
Numbers 21:4b-9

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,] but the people became discouraged on the way. 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.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 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. 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.” 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.



- 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, ' rejoice, 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. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 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? 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. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 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 READING

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.

The holy gospel according to Saint John, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Pastor Miller

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Praise the Gracious Pow'r



- 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!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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: <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>7 Oh, praise the living Christ
 with faith's bright songful voice!
 Announce the gospel to the world
 and with these words rejoice: <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|---|

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

After each portion of the prayers:

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ,
our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

All may share a sign of Peace.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or place it in the offering plate,
or use this QR code with your device to securely give your Offering.

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910



OFFERTORY MUSIC

O For a Closer Walk
Charles Villiers Stanford (b. 1852-1924)

*The offering is received and is presented at the altar.
Please stand as you are able for the Offering Hymn..*

OFFERING HYMN

Take My Life and Let It Be

1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in

cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee; take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise." The score consists of three systems of staves, each with four parts. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass line.

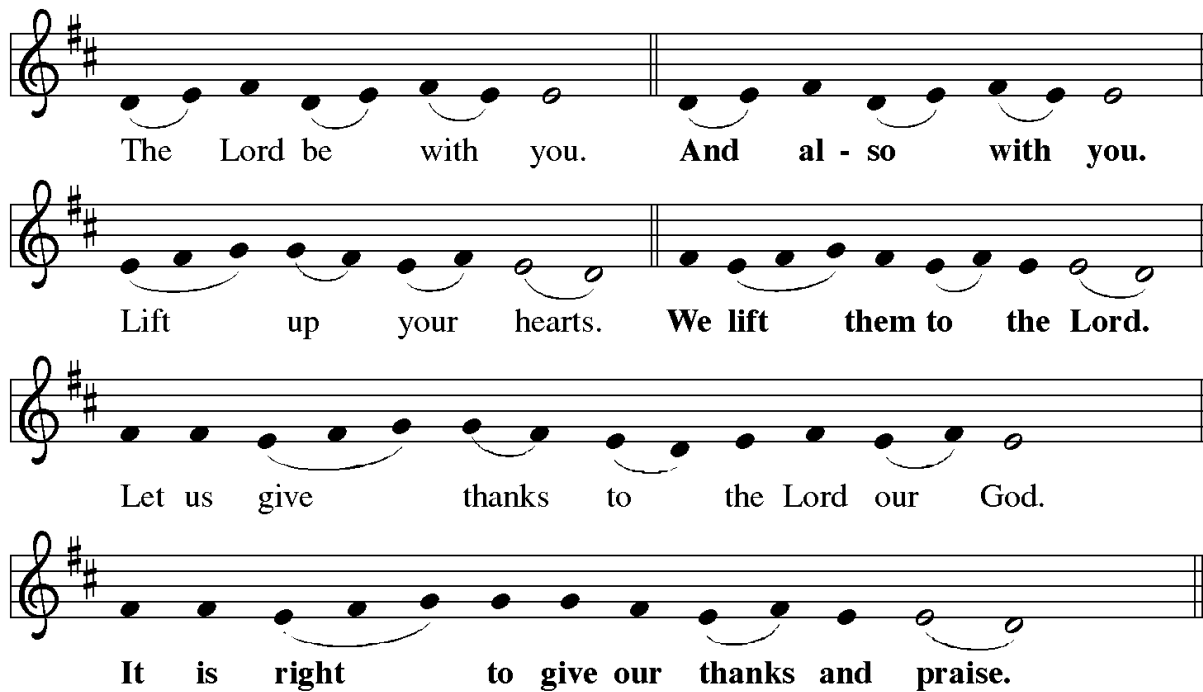
OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

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



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, for 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga a nosotros tu reino,
hagase tu voluntad,
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;
perdona nuestras ofensas,
como nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,
mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites us home to the table.
Come, taste and see.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

*All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps.
Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.
(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)*

Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

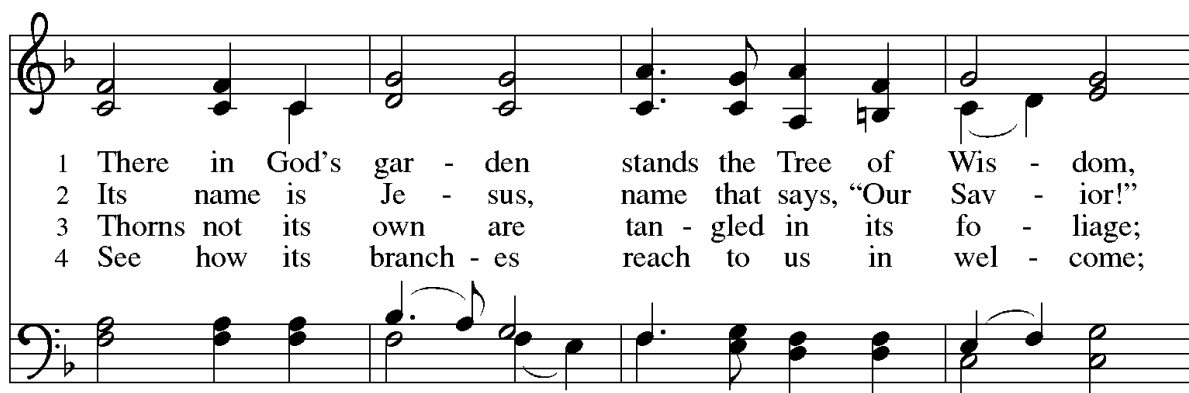
The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen.***

AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting One

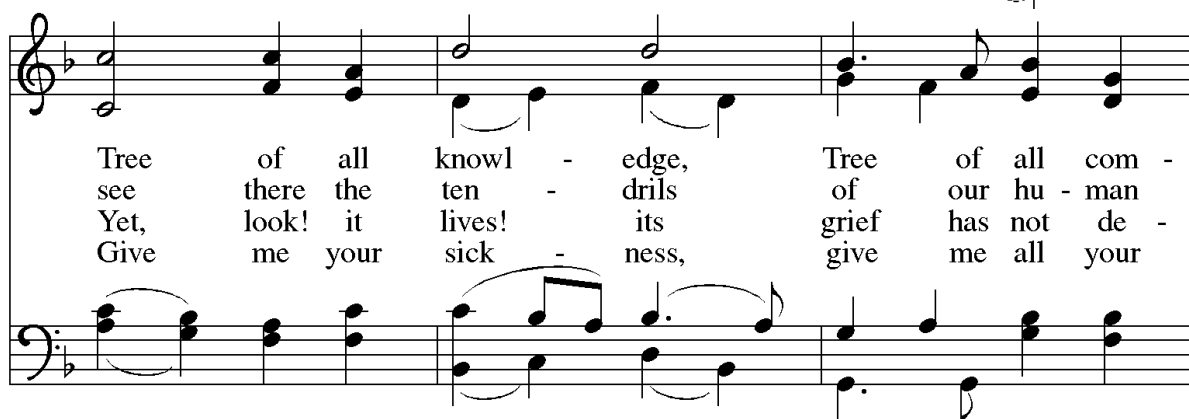
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 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 there 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



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

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!

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING


Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

ELW 207 – Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

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.

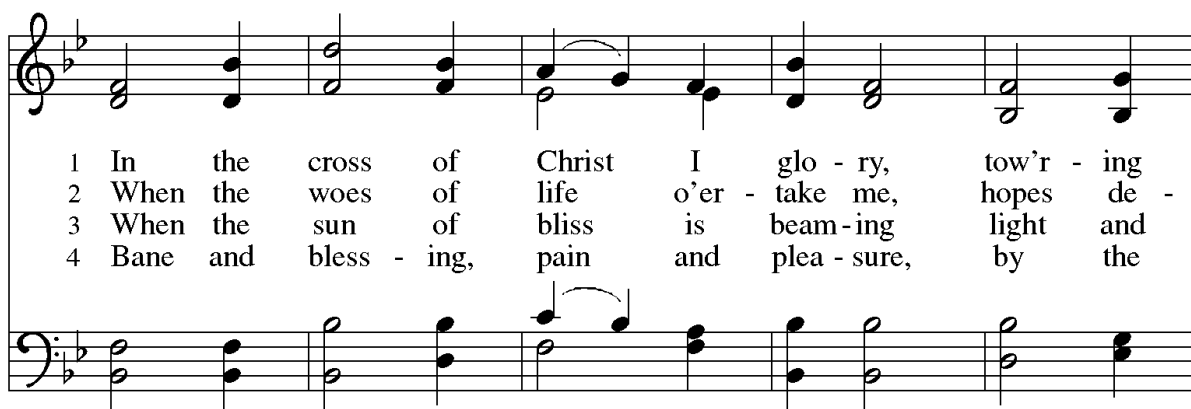
BLESSING

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.

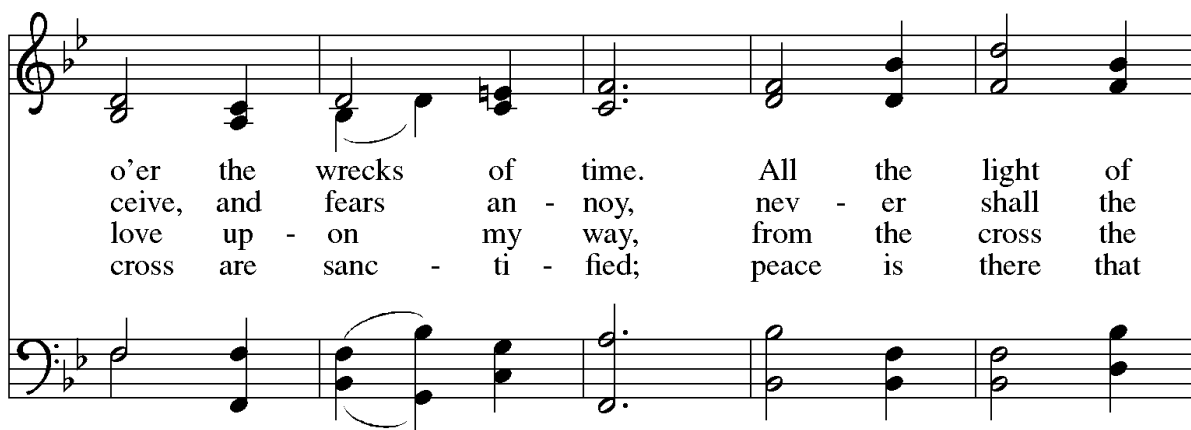
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 324 – In the Cross of Christ I Glory



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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Marked with the cross of Christ.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in Seven
John Rutter (b. 1947)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski
Confirmation Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTERS

The Rev. Gary Nuss
Support Pastor (8:45)

Deacon Kyle Warfield
Director of Discipleship and High School Ministries

INTERCESSOR

Jeff Groen (8:45)

CRUCIFER (8:45)

Bill Leader

READERS

Lynne Yao
Debra Johnson

MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham
Director of Music

Schola Cantorum

Ellen Miller,
Carillon Guild

LET'S TALK

This morning 10:10
Fireside Room

Get some refreshments and join in

And hear about a special declaration coming out soon and how you can participate:

Democracy at Risk: The Response of the Faith Community

And let's catch up...

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright © 2006, administered by Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 3174-W.

Reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, Year C 2024-2025, copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 4182-C.

OneLicense.net streaming license A-701360

What is Stewardship?

This morning during the announcements we hear from Lynne Yao, Chair of the Stewardship Committee.

Here at Saint Luke, we have always understood stewardship to be our shared responsibility to care for the resources God has entrusted to us—our time, talents, and treasures, in a way that honors God and serves others. Through faithful stewardship, we all help to sustain the ministries, outreach, and mission of the church, ensuring that the gospel can continue to have a positive influence in the life of our congregation and our community. Stewardship, though, is not just about financial giving, but also about offering our skills, energy, and commitment to strengthen our mission.

We hope that your giving also fosters a spirit of gratitude, generosity, and trust in God, reminding each of us that everything we have ultimately comes from God.

In order for Saint Luke to meet the needs of our congregation and community, we are asking every member or giving unit to prayerfully consider increasing their giving by just \$20 each month. This small, shared sacrifice has the potential to make a tremendous difference when multiplied across our church family. By each person contributing a little more, together we can ensure that our church remains a strong and vibrant place of faith where God's work can flourish. The easiest way to increase your giving is to go to www.saintlukegive.us and use the online links to automatically increase your giving. Or you can call the church office and we can help you do this. The Stewardship committee would like to thank you in advance for your consistent and steadfast generosity.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

October 5

Prayer Partner Brunch

10:00 a.m. between the morning worship services

October 12

Songs of Faith

50th Anniversary of Wickre Concerts

Music for Brass, Choir, Organ, Strings

Free-Will Offering

October 19

Saint Luke Sunday and God's Work our Hands

Congregation Service Project between the morning services for Montgomery County Homeless

October 26

Reformation Sunday

The Folly of the Cross: Untold Stories of Global Transformation – untold, until now.

Oktoberfest



Wedding Invitation
from Merrill Harmison
and
Ammon Frederick Harteis

Please join us for our wedding. It will be held at Saint Luke on Saturday, October 4. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by a reception in the Saint Luke Great Hall. Everyone is welcome! If you plan to attend, please fill out the form here: <https://bit.ly/ammon-merrill-wedding>
Thank you.

New Items in the
Pew Pockets

Jesus said, Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs. (St. Matthew 19:14)

Those holders in each pew with the offering envelopes have some new and helpful items. Check them out. Welcoming Children in worship, and helps for parents with children in worship. We certainly encourage parents to bring children to worship.

We thank Melissa Groen, Director for Children's Ministries for this wonderful addition as we give thanks for all God's children.

Today's Music:

ELW 660

Lift High the Cross

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev.

Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

Tune: CRUCIFER

ELW 651

Oh, Priase the Gracious Power

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1945-2022

Music: Carol Doran, b. 1936

Tune: CHRISTPRAISE RAY

Take My Life and Let It Be

Text: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879

Music: H. A. César Malan, 1787-1864

Tune: HENDON

ELW 342

There In God's Garden

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

Tune: SHADES MOUNTAIN

ELW 324

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

Tune: RATHBUN

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

CV Stanford was an Anglo-Irish Composer of the late Romantic era. Born in Dublin, the only son of John James Stanford and his second wife Mary. His father was a prominent lawyer in Dublin, Examiner to the Court of Chancery in Ireland, and Clerk of the Crown for County Meath. Both parents were accomplished amateur musicians. As a child, CV Stanford was given a conventional education at a private school in Dublin. He later attended the University of Cambridge. While still an undergraduate, Stanford was appointed organist of Trinity College, Cambridge. At age twenty-nine became a founder of the Royal College of Music where he would teach for the remainder of his life, fifty-seven years. As a teacher, Stanford was sceptical about modernism, and based his instruction chiefly on classical principles as exemplified in the music of Brahms. Among his pupils were Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Edward Elgar. Though having written seven symphonies, Stanford is best known for his choral works in the Anglican tradition.

CDS Music Makers

Tuesdays at 10am (*must be enrolled in CDS*)

Schola Cantorum

Wednesdays at 7:30pm

Reformation Bells

Tuesdays at 7pm

La Sagrada Familia Music

Fridays at 4pm

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

SUNDAY, September 14 – Holy Cross

7:30am Tech Rehearsal
8:00am Schola Cantorum
8:45am Worship (Hybrid)
10:00am The Gathering
10:00am Sunday School
10:00am Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:10am LET'S TALK
11:15am Worship (Hybrid)
12:15pm The Gathering

MONDAY, September 15

9:00am CDS Classes
10:00am CDS Yoga
11:00am Riderwood Service
1:30pm CDS Aftercare

TUESDAY, September 16

9:00am CDS Classes
10:00am CDS Music
1:30pm CDS Aftercare
1:30pm Program Staff Meeting
4:00pm Piano Lessons
7:00pm Reformation Bells

WEDNESDAY, September 17

9:00am CDS Classes
10:00am CDS Chapel
10:00am Women in Community
1:30pm CDS Aftercare
7:30pm Schola Cantorum

THURSDAY, September 18

9:00am CDS Classes
10:00am CDS Yoga
1:30pm CDS Aftercare
7:30pm Centering Prayer (Zoom)
7:30pm AA

FRIDAY, September 19

9:00am CDS Classes
10:00am Fire Drill
12:00pm Food Ministry
6:00pm AA

SATURDAY, September 20

9:30am AA
10:30am CPR Training
11:00am Al-Anon
8:30pm AA

SUNDAY, September 21

7:30am Tech Rehearsal
8:00am Schola Cantorum
8:45am Worship (Hybrid)
10:00am The Gathering
10:00am Sunday School
10:10am Welcome Gathering
10:00am Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
10:00am Affirmation of Baptism Class
11:15am Worship (Hybrid)
12:15pm The Gathering
1:00pm Worship
2:00pm The Gathering