

Holy Cross Day



Word and Sacrament

“Little Church with a BIG Heart”

Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church

September 14th, 2025 11:00 AM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Worship!

This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Saint Bart's welcomes you to worship and our believing community. This morning we celebrate **Holy Cross Day**. The lyrics to the hymns are in the red and purple hymnals in the pews. We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that all of God's people are always welcome here at St. Bartholomew.

Praying People

Everyone is invited to offer their prayer concerns during the Prayers of the Church.

Holy Communion

Saint Bart's celebrates the real presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. We invite all to come and share. At the time of communion, an usher will guide you to come to the altar to receive the elements.

Holy Cross Day

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.

Announcements

We will have a **children's sermon** after the Gospel today. Afterwards, children will leave for the **Nursery** and return to the church for Communion.

A **mandatory training session** will be held after fellowship **TODAY** for volunteers and potential volunteers.

Farmer's Market is this Friday

The RAWtools shop is open Fridays and Saturdays at 1 p.m., weather permitting

Bible Study is held on Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Council will meet on September 21 after fellowship.

The Eternal Candle is lit in September in honor of Mercer Street Friends, donated by Cindy Percak

We can use any food or monetary donations to help our community.

Are there any other announcements?

Bell / Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful and loving God,

C **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.

P 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!

C **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 338

Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you


Kyrie

Leader or All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE / CÁNTICO DE ALABANZA



1 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!
1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre! ¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre!
To God be glo-ry for-ev-er! To God be glo-ry for-ev-er!

¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

WORD

A I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1). Lord, bless the reading of your word. Make it come alive in our midst.

C Amen.

First Reading: **Numbers 21:4b-9**

[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.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 98:1-4

A ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,

whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

C ² **O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of
the nations.**

A 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.

C ⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

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 called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris' n in - deed.

P The Holy Gospel according to **John the 3rd** chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: **John 3:13-17**

[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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

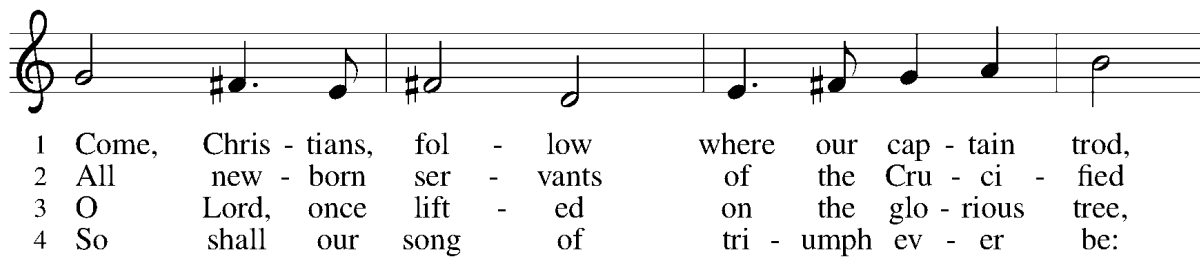
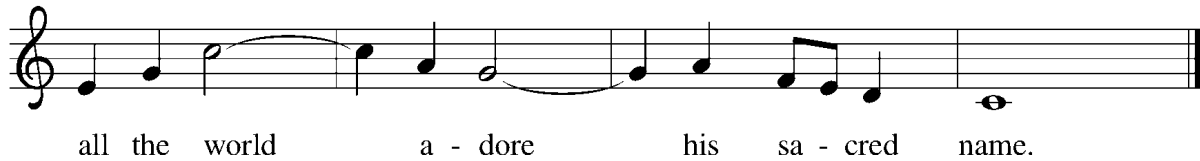
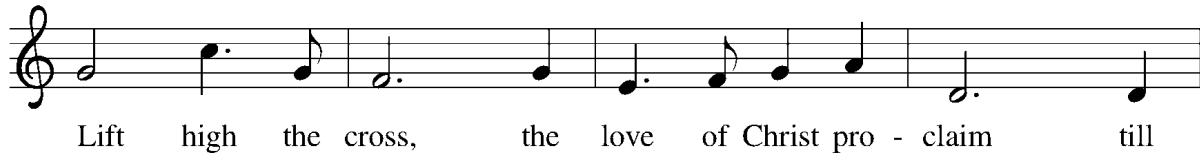
C Praise to you O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON followed by **Nursery**

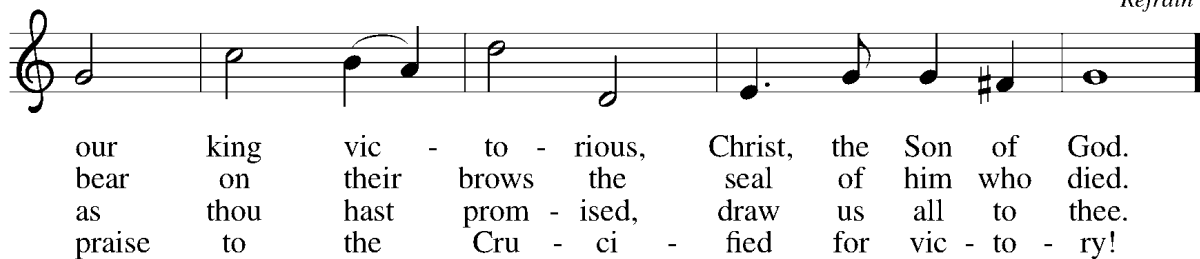
SERMON

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 660

Lift High the Cross



Refrain



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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PEACE

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

Apostle's Creed

P Let us all affirm our faith by using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C 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

Each petition ends:

A God of grace, **C** receive our prayer

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, *especially in Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Sudan, and the United States*. 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 Joe, Nick, Bob, Justin, Billy, Gloria, Rosemary, Kelly, Terri, Nelson; and our neighbors who are experiencing intimidation and fear*). 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.**

We pray for our partner churches: Abiding Presence and Prince of Peace; we pray for our Bishop Christa Compton. We also pray for the concerns of this congregation and the Synod: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays, *especially Brandon Plantier and Virginia McNulty*; and for those celebrating anniversaries; also for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

At this time, you may offer up prayers for loved ones, thanksgivings to God, or any other intercessions silently or aloud... **(Pause)** 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.

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

C Amen.

THE OFFERING

Offering Prayer

A 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.

C Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

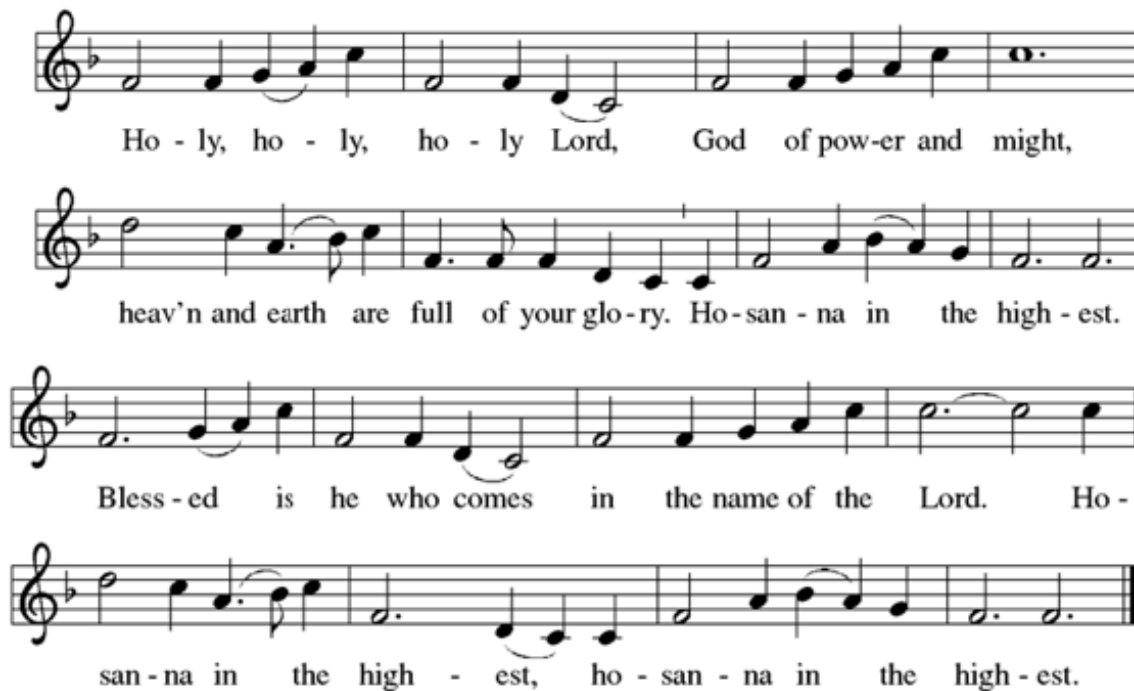
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P 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, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P We praise you God of Freedom,
for you send messengers in every time and place giving voice to
your love: You speak through thirsty women, broken men, the
poor and impure. You choose what is despised to make us
whole. A servant girl bears Jesus, your blessing, who turns the
old world upside down. He forsakes the temple, laughs at the
powerful kisses sinners and heals the unclean. He breaks open
prisons, frees slaves and captives, feasts with the outcast and
celebrates strangers. Loving each one entirely, he teaches us the
way of compassion and peace.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus gathered with his
faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. He 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 them to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Merciful God, fill us with your blessing
and embrace us in communion
with saints and sinners,
the hurt and the hurting,
with Mary Magdalene, Peter the Fisherman,
and friends and strangers everywhere
as we give you all glory and honor and praise, now
and forever,

C Amen

Lord's Prayer

P Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C 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, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

(Children return from the Nursery)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P The table is set. The doors are open.
The gifts of God are:

C Free!

All are welcome at God's Table. If you would like to share in communion with us today, you are more than welcome to do so. There are no prerequisites at God's table and nothing we do to earn a seat at the table, it is freely given to us by God. Please, come and eat!

Distribution

Communion hymn: ELW # 474

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1	Break	now	the	bread	of	Christ's	sac - ri - fice;	giv - ing
2	Seek	not	the	food	that	will	pass a - way;	set your
3	Love	as	the	one	who,	in	love for you,	gave him -
4	Dwell	in	the	one	who	now	dwells in you;	make your
5	Drink	of	this	cup	and	de -	clare his death;	eat this



thanks,	hun - gry	ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en - dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one
home	in	the	life -	giv - ing	Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly	
bread	and	be - lieve	Eas - ter	morn;	trust	his	re -	turn	and,	with



sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres -	ence	the	loaves	will	a -	bound.
liv - ing	way,	that	the	full -	ness	of	life	may	be
food	for	you,	that	your	hun -	ger	and	thirst	be
One	of	God,	and	be -	lieve	in	the	truth	you
ev - 'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you	are	re -
									born.

Refrain

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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TABLE BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C **May we who have fed at Wisdom's table
take her welcome out to where doors are locked
and tables are bolted to the floor.**

**May the Spirit drive us
to break our bread
on the altar of this world.**

Amen.

Benediction

+Sending+

P 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.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn: ACS # 991

Go to the World!



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
 Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,
 bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Dismissal

P Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude