

**September 14, 2025  
Welcome to Worship  
Holy Cross Sunday  
ELW setting 2**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
9844 SW Greenville Road  
Greenville, Michigan**



## WORSHIP PLAN FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

**WELCOME + SING THROUGH SENDING HYMN**  
**“LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS”**

### 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 ELW #525 YOU ARE HOLY



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



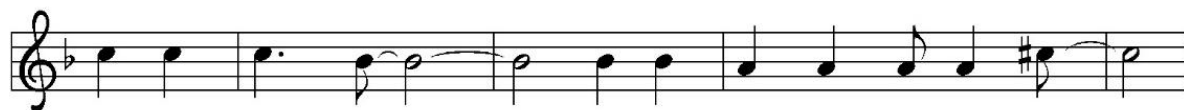
Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



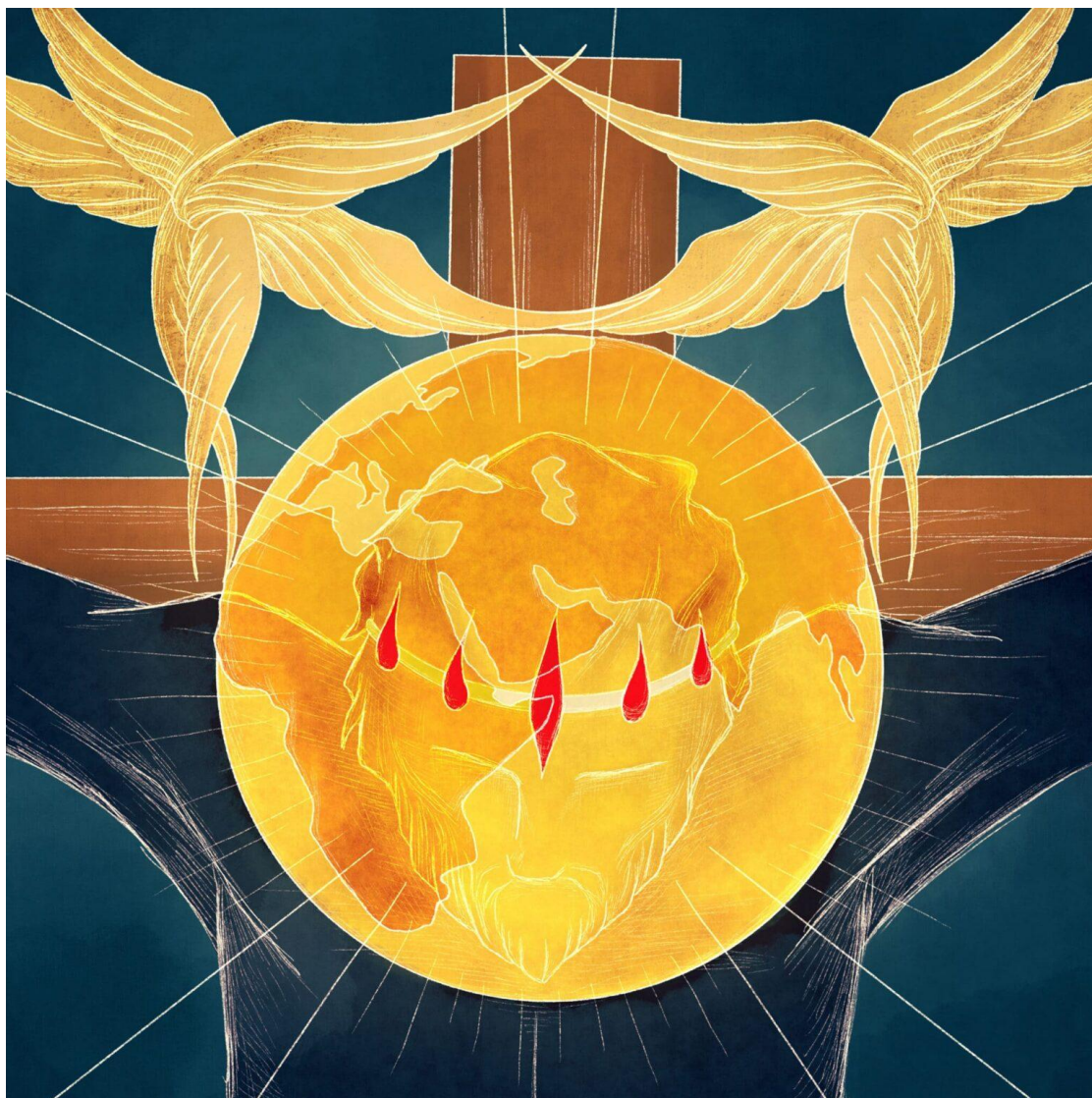
du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

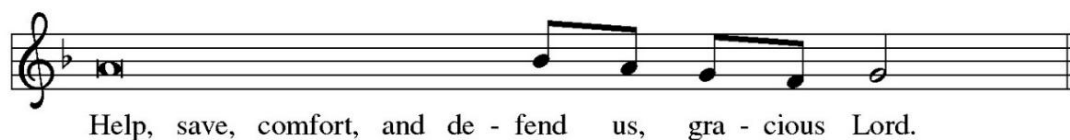
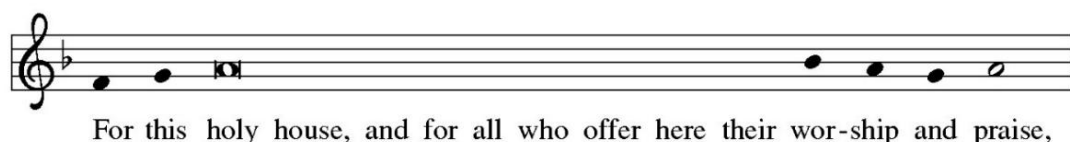
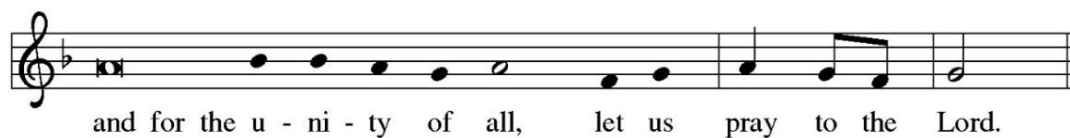
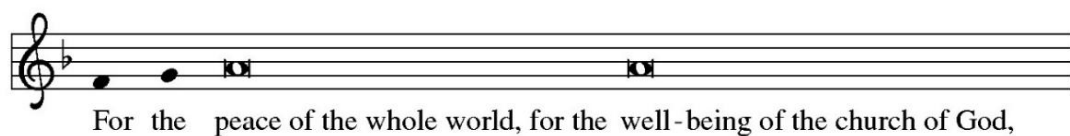
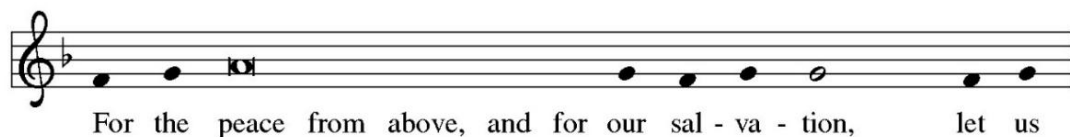


**GREETING (ELW p. 120)**

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.** (hands out)

**KYRIE (ELW p. 120)**





## CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 121)

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**FIRST READING:** Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from Numbers.

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, 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 98:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**



## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

A reading from First Corinthians.

<sup>18</sup> For 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

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

<sup>20</sup> 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? <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> 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.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## M&M Gospel



M is for Manger where Jesus was born.  
Luke 2:1-7



E is for Everyone and reminds us that Jesus  
came to show he loves us all. John 3:16



3 is for three crosses on a hill the day Jesus  
died for our sins. John 19:18



M is for Morning and the orange sunrise  
when Jesus rose. Mark 16:2-6



W is for World. Jesus told us to tell the whole  
world that He loves them. Matthew 28:16-20



E is for Eternity. That's how long we can be  
with Jesus in heaven if we accept him as our  
Savior. John 5:24

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 124)



## GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "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. <sup>17</sup> "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.

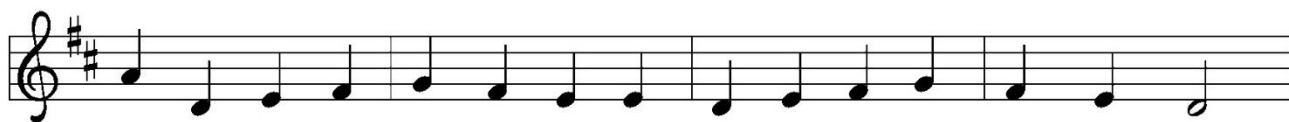
The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON (ELW p. 125)



## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #660 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.  
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

## **CREED (ELW p. 126)**

**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.**

\*The word "catholic" with a small "c" means all Christians.

## **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. Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live. We specially lift prayers for....

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.**

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

**Amen.**

## **PEACE (ELW p. 128)**

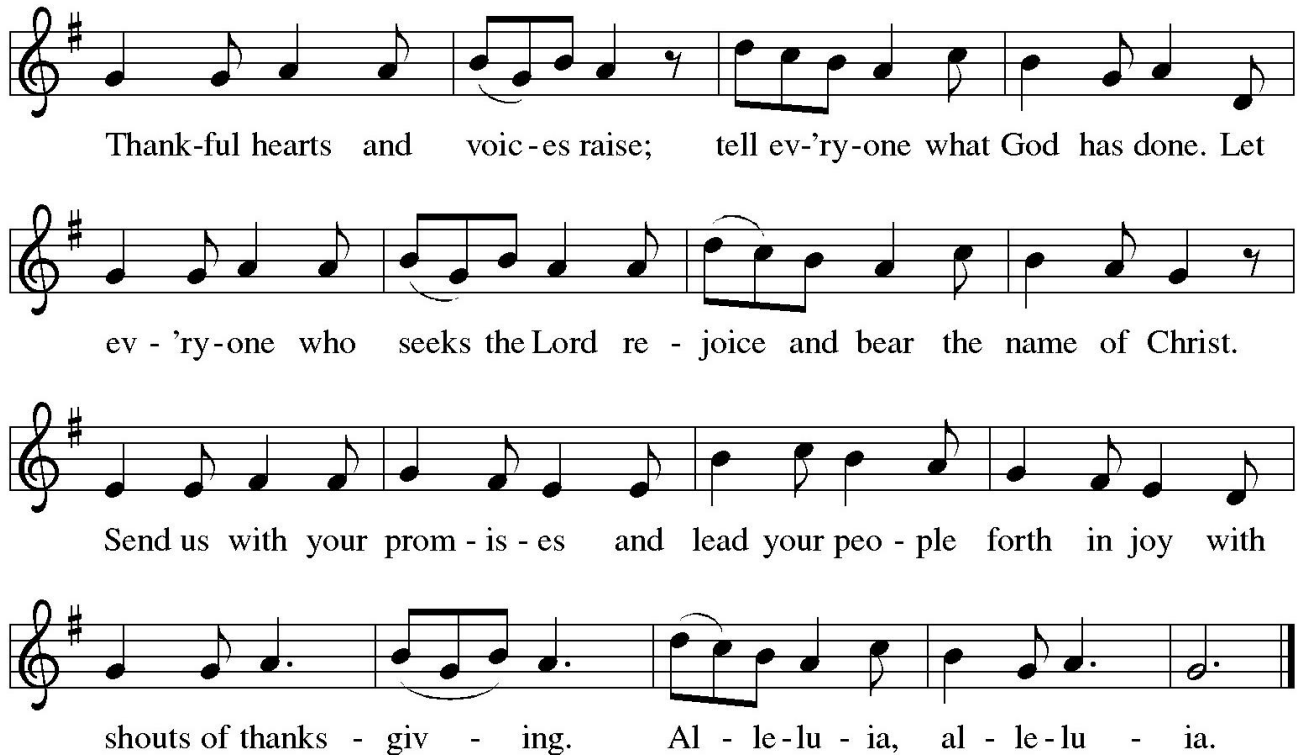
The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.** (*hands out*)

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

**OFFERING SONG 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 - joice 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.

*After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward.*

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 129)**

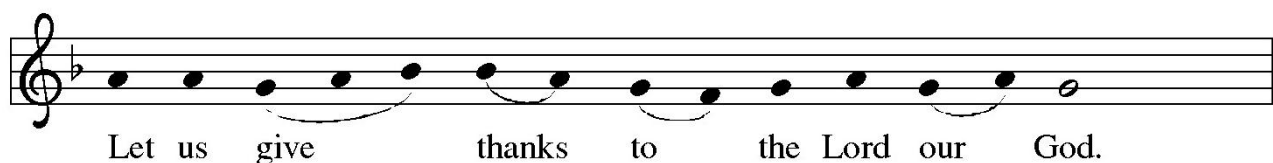
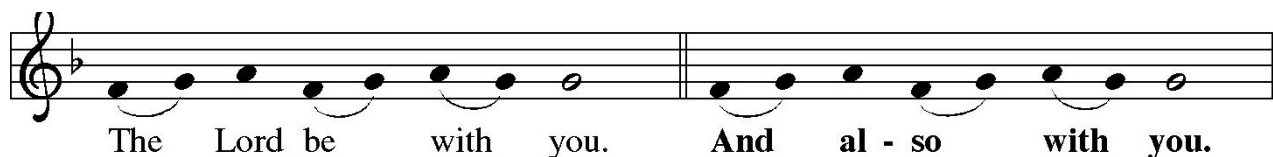
Let us pray.

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

### DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)



### PREFACE (ELW p. 130)

It is truly good, right and our joy  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father,  
everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who accomplished the salvation of humankind  
by the tree of the cross that, where death arose,  
there life also might rise again and that  
the serpent who overcame by the tree  
of the garden might likewise  
by the tree of the cross be overcome.  
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;

(continued on next page)

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:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 130)**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)**

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.

## **ECUMENICAL LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 134)**

**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 (ELW p. 134)**

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

## **COMMUNION (ELW p. 134)**

*If it is too difficult to come to the Table, please let an usher know. Pastor will happily bring it to you in your seat.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
and each person may respond  
**Amen.***



## LAMB OF GOD (ELW p. 135)

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

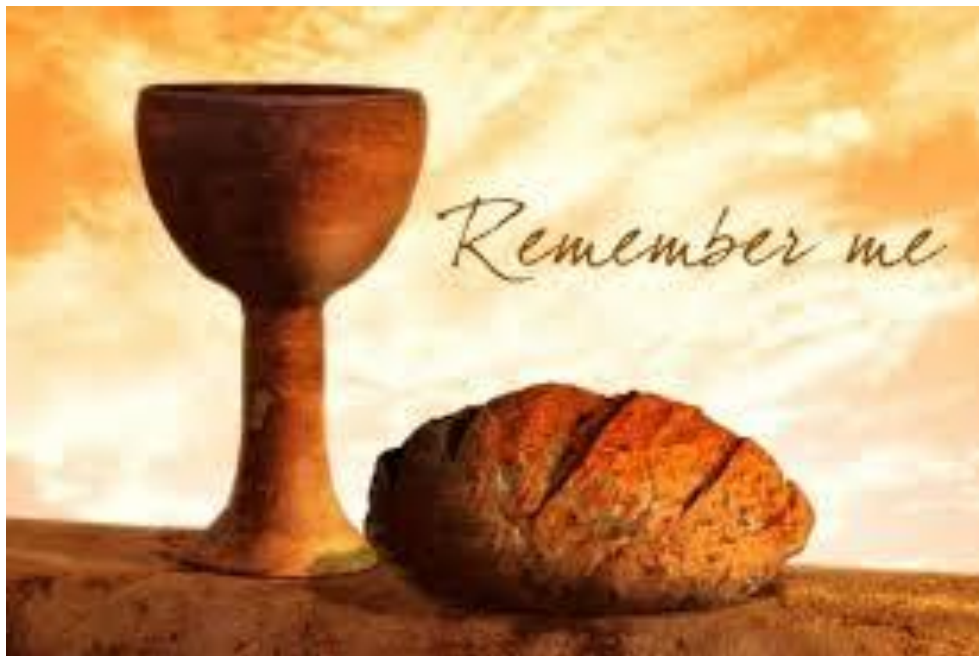
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

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## ELW #471 LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

## ELW# 857 LORD I LFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH SING THREE TIMES

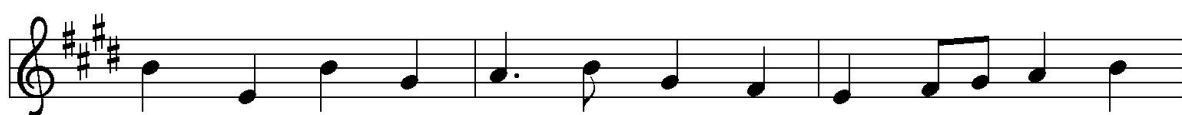
Lord, I lift your name on high  
Lord, I love to sing your praises  
I'm so glad you're in my life  
I'm so glad you came to save us  
You came from heaven to earth  
to show the way  
from the earth to the cross  
my debt to pay  
from the cross to the grave  
from the grave to the sky  
Lord, I lift your name on high

## FINAL BLESSING

### SONG AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 135)

#### ELW 208 PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD OF MERCY

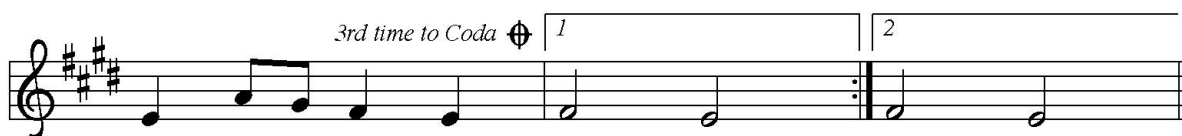
VERSE 1, then refrain, repeat verse 1



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -  
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -  
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:  
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!



## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)**

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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD NEWS**

### **BLESSING (ELW p. 136)**

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 *ELW #802 LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS***



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **LOVE TO SING...COME JOIN US!!**

*A new version of vocal choir will be starting up this fall. It will be called the KEEP IT SIMPLE CHOIR!! It will be simple because the choir will only sing once a month. It will be simple because there will only be one short rehearsal each month. The songs chosen to sing will be easy to learn and joyful to sing! The preferred rehearsal day and time will be discussed at the choir's first meeting on Wednesday, September 24 at 6:00pm. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome. Just show up and delight in making joyful music singing God's praises.*

*Call Linda Hansen at 810-923-3505 if you want more information.*

## **ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

*We have two empty baskets on the cabinets of the back wall. Please donate food items to help feed our neighbors.*

## **PRAYER CHAIN FOR ST. PAUL**

If you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact Lynn Cooper at 616-754-5579.

## **CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONS**

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter devotion books are now available in a plastic stand back by the mailbox area.....near the door to the food pantry.*

## **SPIRITUALITY AND PURPOSE IN LATER LIFE**

This curriculum is a series that provides a space and a structure for exploring the challenges and rewards of aging with a spiritual context.

The Path Ahead will meet 6 times:

Sept. 14 Coming to Terms with Our Terms.

Sept. 28 Naming our Spiritual Needs

Oct. 5 Gratitude and Resilience

Oct. 12 Shifting the Lens from doing to being

Oct. 19 For the love of it. Passion and purpose

Oct. 26 Discerning the path ahead

We'll have videos and material provided that will enhance these topics.  
Sundays from 5:00-7:00 at St. Paul Lutheran in Greenville.

Beverages and snacks included.

Facilitated by Shirley Moerdyk, spiritual director and trained facilitator for  
The Path Ahead curriculum.

***RSVP Shirley at 989-287-0996. Donation of \$5 is appreciated for the cost of the materials.***

### **NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD – NEW INFO**

Office address: 2740 Fuller Ave, NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3746

Mailing address: P.O. Box 67

Holt, MI 48842-0067

Phone #: 517-321-5066

### **ST. PAUL HEALING PRAYER LIST**

**Baby Liam, Carol Rasmussen, Dennis Dombkowski, Jere Schlaben, Joanne Bryer, Father Jim Wyse, Jilayne Thorington, Kay McCreedy, Lois Davis, Lucille Petersen, Ray Jensen, Shirley Sly, Pastor John Autio.**

*\*\*\*If you want to have someone added, please email the main office, leave a voicemail on the main church phone number or text Pastor Nan*

### **MILITARY**

**Brian Blomstrom, Chris Miller, Hanah MacMillen, JD Johansen, Marcus Roy, Ryan Treynor, Steve Kowalewicz, Troy Thornburg, Tyler Markum, Vaughn Misner, Victor Rivera, Vinnie Baza.**

## **SEPTEMBER SERVING CALENDAR**

Date	Assist	Proclaimer	Sound	Lead Usher	Nursery	Counters	Music
9/7	Alicia	Rocky	Lee H Diane Karen H	Curt	Donny	Joy S Karen H	Linda
9/14	Rocky	Josh S	Diane Paul Connie	John C	Shirley	John C Lisa B	Sarah
9/21	Connie	Lynn C	Lee H Diane Lisa B	Bob K	Amy S	Shirley Connie	Sarah
9/26	Janet	Karen P	Paul Lee H Tara	Kevand	Linda E	Kevand Diane C	Sarah

# ***STJ: FIRST FRUITS CELEBRATION,***

## ***SUNDAY OCTOBER 12***

Autumn is a time of joy and celebration at St. Paul; we recognize God's abundant love in the harvest, and the blessings in the unique gifts our church family members share. After worship on Sunday, October 12 we will come together in fellowship with a Harvest Potluck Meal and First Fruits Silent Auction. Foods that reflect the good gifts of God's creation will be shared and enjoyed. Details to follow as the date approaches. Members are encouraged to plan ahead for the First Fruits auction, donating items or services that come from our God-given talents and time. Silent bids will be taken on things that are handcrafted, homemade and home grown.. Get your thinking caps on and fire-up your imagination; share and give thanks for what God has given us. Additionally, you may donate new or unused items. Think of it as an opportunity to do your early Christmas shopping. As always, we thank God for YOU!

## **GAEFM The Greenville Area Ecumenical**

**Food Mission** that operates out of our St. Paul building is solely reliant on community donations and volunteer workers. You can help by purchasing and donating items from the list below:

**Canned fruits and vegetables**

**Cereal**

**Pancake mix and syrup**

**Saltine crackers**

**Toilet paper and personal care items**

**Pasta, rice,**

**Packaged potatoes or meal helpers**

**Canned beans (all varieties)**

## -This Week-

<b>Sunday Sept 14</b>	<b>Council Packets are ready in the church office</b> Worship 9:30AM <b><u>Spirituality and Purpose in Later Life 7 pm</u></b>
<b>Monday Sept 15th</b>	<b>Shalom Trip to Anderson and Girls 10AM</b> Al-anon 7PM Sabbath – Pastor Nan
<b>Tuesday Sept 16th</b>	Food Pantry 10-12 Bell Practice 6 PM
<b>Wednesday Sept 17th</b>	Bible/Book Study 2 – 3 pm Food Pantry 5:30-7:30PM Sabbath - Mark
<b>Thursday Sept 18th</b>	2pm COG Zoom with group 5 pm Council Meeting
<b>Friday Sept 19th</b>	Shalom ZOOM 1:30 PM qS7rfD. Visitation for Rev. Michael Anton, Grace, Hastings, MI
<b>Saturday Sept 20th</b>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers Meeting 10:30AM</b>
<b>Sunday Sept 21st</b>	<b>WORSHIP 9:30AM</b> Path Class 7 pm



# Holy Cross Day

Our foreparents dedicated Holy Cross Day to jolt the Church into remembrance that Christianity is not principally about ethics.

The Church has some peculiar observances. One such “feast” occurs every year on September 14: Holy Cross Day.<sup>[1]</sup> Celebrating the saving work of Christ, along with remembering the Patriarchs and Saints, has long been the custom of the church calendar, and understandably so. But what about inanimate objects — a crossbeam of wood (the patibulum) and its vertical support?

As it turns out, Holy Cross Day is not the only commemoration of the Cross. Several other feast days punctuate the calendar, none of which focus on the instrument of the crucifixion per se but rather the person mounted to it and the event known as the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth.

**It is the crucified Christ that renders the crucifix (or, simply, “the cross”) meaningful and significant.**

While Good Friday is dedicated to the Passion of Christ and the crucifixion, Holy Cross feast day draws into sustained focus the instrument of salvation and the throne of our God and King, Jesus of Nazareth.<sup>[2]</sup> **The cross, then, with Christ crucified upon it is the ultimate revelation of who God is and how He is toward us.**

Our foreparents dedicated Holy Cross Day to jolt the Church into remembrance that Christianity is not principally about ethics. **Christ was crucified as the act of God. That is what makes the cross “holy.”**

But not only was the crucifixion the act of redemption, it is also the greatest moment of divine revelation. This is Christianity. If you do not have the Gospel, you have got a treadmill religion-of-works.

**“The cross puts everything to the test,”** said Luther. As he thought on [1 Corinthians 1:23](#) he said: **“We preach Christ crucified.”** Christian thinking about God comes to a blunt halt at the foot of the Cross, coagulated with “the blood of God,” as [Acts 20:28](#) puts it.

The very existence of the Cross and of the crucified Christ forces us to make a crucial decision: Will we look for God somewhere else, or will we own what God Himself has presented as **His own self-disclosure — the crucified Christ — as the basis of our knowledge of God and how we live before Him?**

Holy Cross Day has stood as a monument and touchstone for nearly eighteen centuries so our generation too may confess:

## **“Christ and Him crucified.”**

[1] The date of the feast marks the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in AD 335, built over the dual sites of the crucifixion and entombment (and resurrection) of Jesus.

[2] This feast is called in Greek, “Ὑψωσις τοῦ Τιμίου καὶ Ζωοποιοῦ Σταυροῦ (Raising Aloft of the Honored and Life-Giving Cross),” from which we have a familiar hymn, “Lift High the Cross”. In English, it is called, “The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.”

