

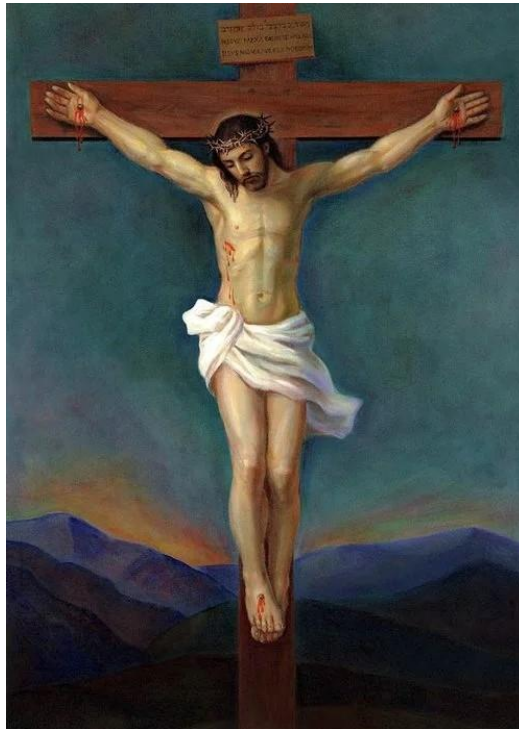
Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church

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The Reverend Larry K. Loree, Pastor

*A member congregation of The English District of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*



Holy Cross Day

September 14, 2025

+IN THE NAME OF JESUS+

WELCOME to the Divine Service at Ascension of Christ! We pray that you will be richly blessed by God as you hear His Word, receive His gifts and worship Him with your prayer and praise!


TO OUR GUESTS Welcome, we are glad that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher or a greeter if you have any questions. Be sure to introduce yourself to our Pastor. We invite you to consider Ascension of Christ if you are looking for a church home. We gather every Sunday morning for Adult Bible Study at 9:00 am, the Divine Service at 10:15 am, and Sunday School and Fellowship Hour after church.

CHILDREN AT ASCENSION At Ascension, we want you to feel at home. First, please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome here! To make it easier on your family, please dare to sit closer to the front where your children can easily see what's going on, note the colors, watch the pastors, wonder about those heads on the lectern, and embrace the action at the altar. What Jesus does here is for them, too! As we go through the Divine Service, encourage them to join in on their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy. And with your spirit. I believe! Our Father!* And please be sure to sing and pray your parts too! Children learn by following your lead. There are some busy bags in the back of the church for you and if you must take your children out of the church, please hurry back!

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS JOYFULLY RECEIVED HERE TODAY At the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ delivers His true body and blood into our mouths. His gift of body and blood given in, with, and under the bread and wine, bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation. All members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have publicly confessed this sacred gift and its blessings and so are encouraged to commune. When you have examined yourself according to Christ's bidding (1 Corinthians 11:28), come to His Supper rejoicing, just as Jesus asks, knowing that our Lord meets you at His altar with joy. If you are a guest and would like to learn more about the practice of the Lord's Supper at Ascension of Christ, or if you are uncertain about whether you should receive the Lord's Supper, please speak with Pastor Loree before communing for the first time.

THE LITURGY FOR HOLY CROSS DAY *"Sir, we wish to see Jesus"* (John 12:21). Then look to His holy cross. For just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, so Jesus, when He is *"lifted up from the earth, will draw all people"* to Himself (John 12:32). *"He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross"* to save us (Phil. 2:8). *"Everyone who is bitten"* by the ancient serpent's venom of sin, *"when he sees"* Christ *"shall live"* (Num. 21:8). *"We preach Christ crucified the power of God and the wisdom of God,"* though foolishness to the unbelieving world (1 Cor. 1:23-24). It pleases God, *"through the folly"* of the cross we preach, *"to save those who believe"* (1 Cor. 1:21).

+GOD GATHERS US BEFORE HIS HOLY PRESENCE+

Please note the  symbol is used to indicate a sung response.

PRELUDE


Please stand at the sound of the chimes

OPENING HYMN

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

LSB 837

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.


EXHORTATION TO CONFESSION

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Sit

+GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD+

OLD TESTAMENT

Numbers 21:4-9

["And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live."]

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And 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 loathe this

worthless food." ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



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



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

["Sir, we wish to see Jesus."]

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and

where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world

be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

NICENE CREED

(Back cover of the hymnal)

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY *SING, MY TONGUE, THE GLORIOUS BATTLE* LSB 454

SERMON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+GOD RECEIVES OUR PRAYERS & OFFERINGS+

Kneel/Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Sit

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

+GOD GIVES US A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME+

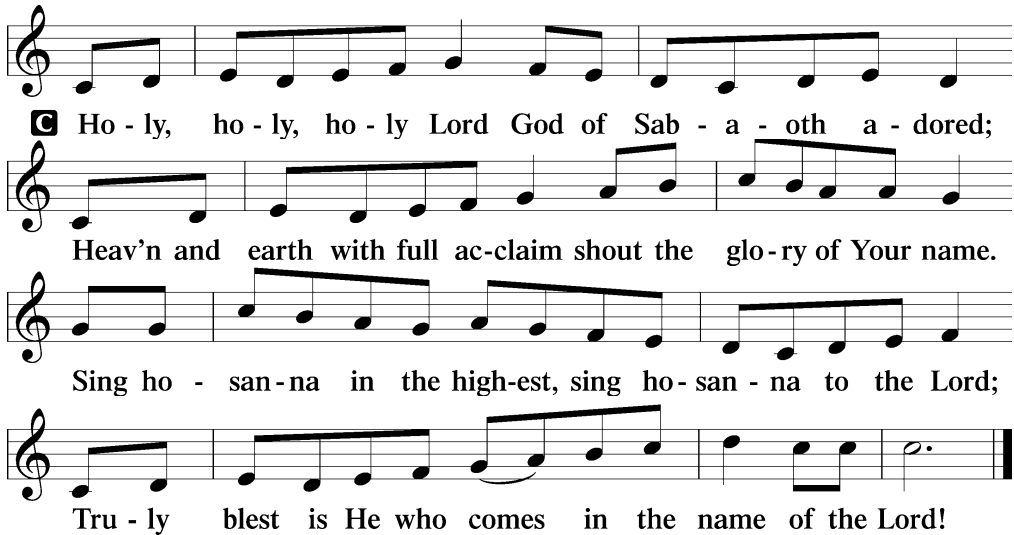
Stand

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.
- 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 Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI



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 Your
peace, grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

<i>JESUS COMES TODAY WITH HEALING</i>	LSB 620
<i>COME TO CALVARY'S HOLY MOUNTAIN</i>	LSB 435
<i>O CHRIST, WHO CALLED THE TWELVE</i>	LSB 856
<i>IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY</i>	LSB 427

Stand

DISMISSAL

P The true body and precious blood of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you in body and soul to life everlasting.

C Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have given us one Spirit to drink through the body and blood of Your Son. Grant that Your Holy Spirit unite us all in the holy fellowship of faith and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE+

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

9/11 ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

- P** Lord of all nations, God of all peoples, we praise You for answering the prayers of Your people as we sought Your mercy and protection following the events of September 11, 2001. Your providence and care have given to us daily bread and protection from enemies. Let us ever trust Your mercy even as enemies continue to threaten our peace. Continue to comfort us through Your Word, that we may continue to find our eternal hope in Your Son's victory over evil and the grave. Turn all our hearts to Jesus, who is our life and our salvation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN

LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US

LSB 851

+TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY+