Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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September 14th, 2025 9:30am
Holy Cross Day / Quilt Sunday



Evangelical Lutheran Worship - Setting 10, page 203
Please leave your offering in the plate at the door
You may stand at times marked with an asterisk (*)

Opening

Prelude and Contemplation

Karen Niemeier

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

* Hymn *Lift High the Cross* **ELW # 660**

* Greeting *ELW page 203*

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 *Have Mercy On Us, Lord* *ELW page 203*

C: Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word;
it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole
that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving power, create in us new hearts!

* Canticle *Glory Be to God in Heaven* *ELW page 204*

C: Glory be to God in heaven;
peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you,
we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you;
here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior,
you have come from heaven above;
on the cross you died to save us;
now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;
in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you,
God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit,
in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

* Prayer of the Day

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: Thanks be to God.

Readings

First Reading: *Numbers 21:4-9*

L: 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. And the people became impatient on the way. 5 And
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." 6 Then the LORD sent
fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many
people of Israel died. 7 And 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 Moses
prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery ser-
pent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it,
shall live."

[9] So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. *[ESV]*

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: *98:1-4*

L: Let us read responsively from Psalm 98.

[1] Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

[2] **The LORD has made known his salvation;**
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

[3] He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

[4] **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;**
break forth into joyous song and sing praises! *[ESV]*

Second Reading: *I Corinthians 1:18-25*

L: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

[18] For the word of the cross is folly 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 scribe? 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach
Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to
those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God
and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than
men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. *[ESV]*

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Acclamation *ELW page 205*

C: Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us,
speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

* Gospel: *John 3:13-17*

P: The holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from
heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the
wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever be-
lieves in him may have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that
he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish
but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to
condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through
him." *[ESV]*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Sermon Rev. Thomas Mosbo

*** Hymn** ***In the Cross of Christ I Glory*** **ELW # 324**

*** Apostles' Creed** *ELW page 105*

P: Let us confess together the faith into which we were baptized.

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.

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.

Choir Anthem ***Tallis Canon***

Prayer

Prayers of Intercession *ELW page 206*

L: Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation

Please respond to each petition with the following:

L: … God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

We lift our prayers for

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Fern Harnish, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Marilyn Fulfs, Gary Hudik, Virgil Martin, Caroline Jam, Cyndy Schumacher, Virgil Gordon, Jerry Martin, Donna Christen, Richard Frietag, Connor Stadermann, Brooke, Diane, Randy, Brian, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, Nicole, Meghan and her baby, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kay, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Jack, Tina, Joe, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Jim DeMontigny Jr., Linda Kruger-Kleckler, Norman, Vivian, Tina Cheeney, Brenda, Kara Allen, Christine Beyer, Judy, Bob Schulz, Kenny Frie, Steve Rothschadl, Gary L. Hartwig Josh, Hannah, Ray Phillips, Susan, Allison Biddick, Brad Rackow, Gene Medeke, Demetrio Velazco, Kim Choin, Jeannie, Dianne, Nancy and Pat McCluskey.

Lord's Prayer *ELW page 208*

P: Lord, 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, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Blessings

Blessing of Quilts written by Joci Post, adapted

Please lay hands on the quilts

P: We thank you, Lord, for the many gifts you have bestowed upon us, and now ask you to bless the work of our hands, that it might become a blessing to others.

Lord, we know that these quilts alone are only ordinary things, but through your power and love they become extraordinary. Bless these gifts we lay before you, that they would not be from our own hearts and hands but from yours.

Let each quilt be your unfailing arms of comfort and your trusted means of hope; assurance to those who despair, and light to those who live in darkness.

Transform us, Creator, from idle beings into those who do your work. Help us to recognize our own limitations and acknowledge our need for your strength.

Motivate us, Lord, to fulfill your desire to feed the hungry, give water to those who thirst, and clothe those with nothing. Let these humble offerings become tools of your service, bringing love into the lives of those in need around the world.

Bless these quilts, Lord, and the work of Lutheran World Relief and our own Piece Corps Ministry in answering your call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we ask all these things.

C: Amen.

Blessing of Congregation *ELW page 209*

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

C: Amen.

* Hymn *The Head That Once Was Crowned* **ELW # 432**

* Dismissal *ELW page 209*

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Karen Niemeier



Chime and Choir Practice

Chimes at 10:45am.

Choir at 11:15am.

September 21st, *Rally Day*,
kick off for Sunday School.

Sunday School begins on September 28th.

Deadline for Good Shepherd's

October Newsletter September 17th

Please have your Newsletter notes or meeting dates sent to secretary via e-mail or hard copy in the secretary's office. Thank you.

Men's Group

Saturday, September 27th at 4:30pm

Attendance August 31st

In-person - 22, on-line - 88

Saint Helena and Holy Cross Day

by Audrey Novak Riley

Every September 14, we observe Holy Cross Day as a lesser festival, singing "Lift High the Cross" (ELW 660). It's an ancient Christian celebration, going back to at least the seventh century. But did you know there's a bold woman at the heart of Holy Cross Day?

Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337), was a Christian, and Constantine attributed his victories to Christ. The Roman empire outlawed our faith for many years, but Constantine changed that and granted tolerance to all religions in the empire.

The holy sites in and around Jerusalem had been lost for nearly 200 years since the Romans had razed the city and plowed under the ashes. Now Constantine wanted those holy sites found, excavated, and preserved, with Christian churches to honor them, and he asked his mother, Helena, to lead the expedition. As she traveled, she founded churches, hospitals, and hostels to serve and shelter the poor and destitute. In Jerusalem, she discovered three crosses, one of which had the board with the title "The King of the Jews" still attached. And that, according to the story, was the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

Helena was a bold woman of steadfast faith and determination. So, when you sing "Lift High the Cross," remember Helena and imagine how thrilled she must have been when her workers lifted an old wooden cross out of the earth that had covered it for so long.

Excerpts from: WELCA

