



Christian Education Observance

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 8-9, 2026

AS WE GATHER

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOLY CROSS is celebrated in accordance with the Lutheran confession that Christ's body and blood are truly given to us with the bread and wine to give forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. **Missouri-Synod Lutherans united with us in that confession are invited to receive the Sacrament with us.** Others who desire to commune should first speak with a Pastor or an Elder.

- For those whose health or circumstance may require it, Holy Cross offers an alcohol-removed red wine (containing less than 0.5% alcohol) located in the center of each Communion tray.
- Gluten-free wafers are available upon request to a Pastor or Elder before the service.
- If you want communion in the pew, please let an usher or Elder know before the service.
- Individual Communion cups: Please do not stack the plastic communion cups in the baskets. Stacked cups stick together and hinder the rinsing process. Thanks for understanding!

ATTENDANCE PADS: We invite members and guests alike to take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located at the end of the pew by the center aisle. Please provide contact information if you are interested in membership or if you would like to be contacted by the church. After signing, please pass it to your neighbor and then return it to its spot by the aisle.

COLORING PAGES: see pages 17 & 19.

LIVE-STREAMING of 8 AM SERVICE WEEKLY: Holy Cross live streams the 8 AM service each Sunday on a link at our website (hcross.com). We provide this service for our members who cannot attend worship. The video perspective from the choir loft looks toward the altar and shows all aspects of the service from the sixth row of pews forward. This includes baptisms, children's talks, and communion.

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Those with hearing aids can now download and use a smartphone or tablet app that broadcasts the service to their hearing aids. (Bluetooth connection required)

Step 1. Log in to the Guest Wi-Fi

Network Name: **HC-Guest**

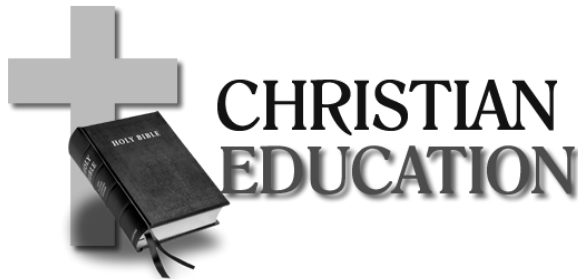
Password: **Romans1:16**

You will be prompted to join the "HC-Guest" Wi-Fi network



Step 2. Download the ListenWIFI App

Search your device's app store for the **ListenWIFI** app by Listen Technologies



TODAY WE CELEBRATE Christian Education, the opportunity to teach the faith we have in Jesus Christ. This gift is not only available to us in great abundance in our free and affluent society, but it is affected by the Holy Spirit of God Himself! Let us pray that everyone here will take the opportunity to grow in faith and in the knowledge of salvation. May God grant us grace to make Christian Education a valued priority for all. In today's service, backpacks will be blessed, Bibles will be given to third graders and catechisms to sixth graders, and teachers for Sunday School, Midweek, and Preschool will be installed. In all services, we celebrate Holy Communion.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS: 9:30AM (usually in the gym)

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM Ages PreK to High School (classrooms)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday, 10AM, Rooms 1&2

TUESDAY ADULT EVENING BIBLE CLASS 6:30PM

2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday, 9:30AM, Gym

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY:

Second Wednesday, 6:30AM, September through May

CONFIRMATION Grade 6-8, **MIDWEEK** grades PreK-5, **LYF**
starts Wed., Aug. 20; Classrooms

20s&30s&40s BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM every Thursday, Rooms 1&2

BASICS — Check with the church office for next round of classes.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION — August 23, 9:30AM, Rooms 1&2

Explanation of Theme:

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

In July 2025, the Called Staff and representatives from the Boards of Education, Youth, Stewardship, Evangelism, and Missions gathered to discuss the theme and focus for the next three years at Holy Cross. Ultimately, the group landed on “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” as the overall theme. Each year will focus on one of the three parts of the Apostles’ Creed:

2025/26 - The Things God has made ~ Genesis 1:31

2026/27 - The New ‘Person’ God has made ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

2027/28 - The People God has made ~ 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27

Throughout this cycle, notice an intentional focus on each of these themes through the lens of Worship, Service, Fellowship, and Education. A well-rounded Christian life is lived through these four areas. We want our church family to have the opportunity to discover even more about the great God we serve in as many ways as possible.

We look forward to having our whole church family engaged and enriched through this theme and can’t wait to share it with you.

— *Charity Smith*
Director of Christian Education

Christian Education Observance

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service 2

PRELUDE: Rhosymedre

Phil Lehenbauer; Saturday

PRELUDE: Adagio from Concerto in D Minor, BWV 974

J. S. Bach; Sunday

GATHERING OF BACKPACKS

During the opening hymn, all students are invited to bring their backpacks forward to place them on the steps in front of the altar.

OPENING HYMN: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LSB 790

PLEASE STAND



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **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 on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

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.

Service of the Word

INTROIT

PSALM 139:13-18

P For You formed my inward parts;

C **You knitted me together in my mother's womb.**

P I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are Your works;

C **my soul knows it very well.**

P My frame was not hidden from You,
when I was being made in secret,

C **intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

P Your eyes saw my unformed substance;

C **in Your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.**

P How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God!

C **How vast is the sum of them!**

P If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

C **I awake, and I am still with You.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P For You formed my inward parts;

C You knitted me together in my mother's womb.

KYRIE

LSB 285

L O Lord,

C have mercy.

L O Christ,

C have mercy.

L O Lord,

C have mercy.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son
You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who
are brought to newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ may
show forth in their lives what they confess with their lips; through Jesus Christ,
our Lord.

C Amen.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES AND CATECHISMS

PLEASE BE SEATED

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 36:24-30

A The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 36.

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries
and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you,
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols
I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will
put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and
give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause
you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My just decrees. ²⁸You
shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be My
people, and I will be your God. ²⁹And I will deliver you from all your
uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and
lay no famine upon you. ³⁰I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase
of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of
famine among the nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CALM ME, LORD

Sunday

Following the introduction, the congregation sings the song several times through.



Calm me, Lord, as You calmed the storm; still me, Lord,
keep me from harm. Let all the tumult with - in me
cease; en - fold me, Lord, in Your peace.

EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

A The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

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



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through Him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹²But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY: "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

LSB 384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

SERMON

SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED— Redemption

PLEASE STAND

C I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P *What does this mean?*

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

INSTALLATION

PLEASE SIT

Sunday School Teachers, Midweek Teachers, Volunteers, Preschool Staff

BLESSING AND PRAYER FOR EDUCATORS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PLEASE STAND

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Additional petitions conclude:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

PLEASE SIT

We ask that all worshipers take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located at the end of the pew by the center aisle. If you are interested in membership, please provide a phone number or email address so that we may contact you.

VOLUNTARY: Earth and All Stars

Harald Rohlig; Saturday

VOLUNTARY: Be Thou My Vision

arr. Cindy Blevins; Sunday

Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

LSB 177/PLEASE STAND

- 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 Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS “Holy, Holy, Holy”

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r 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



LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 179

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

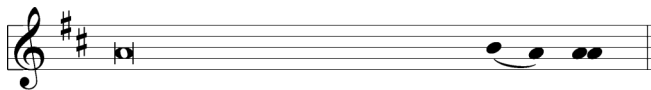
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PEACE OF THE LORD

LSB 180



C 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.

DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE SIT

Please see notice on page 2.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

LSB 817 Earth and All Stars

LSB 653 In Christ There Is No East or West

LSB 861 Christ Be My Leader

LSB 863 Our Father, by Whose Name

DISMISSAL

PLEASE STAND

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you
 in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 183

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.

THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

ALL SERVICES

All students this year, from preschool to college, are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing and a prayer as they begin a new school year, whether they brought a backpack or not.

P Let us pray: God of all knowledge and wisdom, these students and backpacks remind us that a new school year has begun. We pray your blessing on them and upon all students, young and old, as they begin a new year. Help them discover and develop the gifts you have given them. And as they grow in knowledge, help them also grow in kindness and compassion, learning respect for themselves and for others. We ask your blessing on parents and all those who care for these students. Strengthen them to surround these students with encouragement, support, and love. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

P May the Lord Almighty bless the backpacks of these students, the ones here and the ones that are not, and bless also all of these students who use them, in the name of the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

All students may return to their seats during the closing hymn.

CLOSING HYMN: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

See next page

SILENT PRAYER & CHIMES

POSTLUDE: Jesus Loves Me

Jason D. Payne

CLOSING HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
 all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
 heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



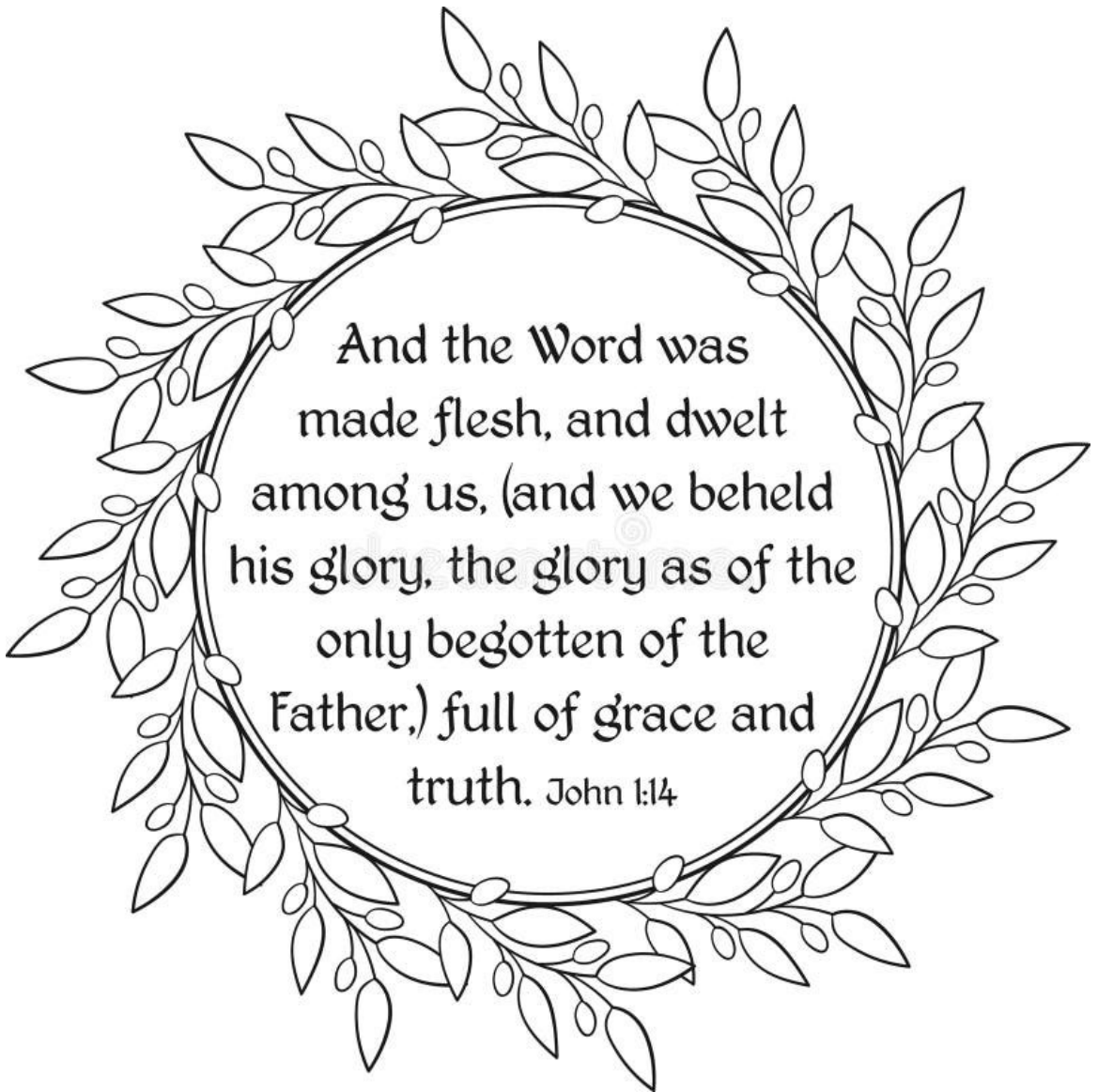
Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

I WILL★
PRAISE
HIM FOR
I AM★
FEARFULLY
AND ★
WONDERFULLY
MADE.

FROM
PSALM 139:14



Serving in God's House Today August 8-9, 2026		
Preacher		Pastor Jason P. Kohm
Liturgist		Pastor Andrew J. Gimbel
Director of Christian Education		Charity Smith
Organist		David Gilson
Flutist		Miriam Gimbel
Clarinet		Lila Gimbel
Cello		Brody Van Wave
Elders	Saturday, 5PM	Ralph Erickson/Jerry Lancour
	Sunday, 8AM	Don Wischmeyer
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Chris Price
Ushers	Saturday, 5PM	Refer to Elder
	Sunday, 8AM	Terry Hardy
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Cynthia Menscher, Jennifer Reed
COVER: Designed by Ashleigh Lacey P. 8: Calm Me, Lord Tune: Margaret Rizza Tune: © 1998 Kevin Mayhew Ltd., admin. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission. Used by permission: Holy Cross License no. 10003438 P. 17: Praise & Worship Coloring Pages https://i.pinimg.com/originals/bc/4b/69/bc4b69359d1d2bc2ba15af5d996b636f.jpg		
Acknowledgments Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.		



<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/john-black-outline-isolated-biblical-verse-decoration-bible-psalm-god-s-glory-black-outline-round-wreath-coloring-page-334706048.jpg>

Holy Cross Lutheran Church & Preschool

8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway
O'Fallon, MO 63366
(636) 272-4505 + www.hcross.com
Email: secretary@hcross.com

Rev. Andrew J. Gimbel
Rev. Jason P. Kohm
Pastoral Team

Charity Smith
Director of Christian Education

David Gilson
Director of Music

Dani Richardson
Preschool Director

With the help of God,
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
grows disciples
and transforms hearts
for Christ.