



Reformation Sunday (observed)
Confirmation at 3PM & 10:45AM
October 24 & 25, 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 who 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.
- ◆ Communion in the pew is available: let an usher or Elder know before the service.
- ◆ Individual Communion cups: Please do *not* stack the plastic cups in the baskets after use at communion. Stacked cups stick together and hinder the rinsing process. Thanks for understanding!

ATTENDANCE PADS: Take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located by the center aisle of each pew. 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.

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



Reformation Day (Observed)

Divine Service, Setting Five

October 17 & 18, 2026

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

2026 marks the 500th anniversary of Luther's "Deutsche Messe," or German Service, a document sharing how his church in Wittenberg would worship. To commemorate the occasion, we thought it would be helpful on this Reformation Day to loosely follow this order of service. You will find some things familiar, but some things may feel different.

We will also be including some more modern things in worship today that Luther would not have used, as it is what works in our context at Holy Cross. The joy of this is that, so long as the Word is preached and the Sacraments celebrated, we are free to worship in the way that works for us, as Luther writes: "Those who see this Order of Service or desire to adopt it, shall not impose it as a law...but shall use it in Christian freedom as they may please, as, where, when, and as long as conditions warrant or call for it."

In worshiping this way today, perhaps you might be encouraged in seeing how people, in different times and places, through their differing worship, might all be connected in the one Church worshiping the one God together.

PRELUDE: Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott BuxWV 184

Dietrich Buxtehude

Please stand and face the procession

As in the medieval Latin mass, Luther began his service with an Entrance Psalm. We have adopted this practice and added a hymn to begin the service, similarly beginning with music.

PSALM 46

- L** God is our refuge and strength,
C a very present help in trouble.
L Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
C though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
L though its waters roar and foam,
C though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
L There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
C the holy habitation of the Most High.
L God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
C God will help her when morning dawns.
L The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
C he utters his voice, the earth melts.
L The LORD of hosts is with us;
C the God of Jacob is our fortress.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God LSB 941
On Sunday, the choir sings stanza 3 *arr. David Gilson*



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
 2 The band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your praise;
 3 You, Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
 4 You sit in splen - did glo - ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by all the earth a - dored.
 The fel - low - ship of proph - ets their death-less voic - es raise.
 Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res - cue ev - 'ry - one;
 Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by forc - es You com - mand.



To You all an - gel pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav - ens sing,
 The mar - tyrs of Your king - dom, a great and no - ble throng,
 You laid a - side Your glo - ry, were born of vir - gin's womb,
 We know that You will come as our Judge that fi - nal day,



The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring;
Sing with the ho - ly Church through-out all the world this song;
Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb;
So help Your ser - vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;



“O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
“O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son,
Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re - prieve—
May we with saints be num - bered where prais - es nev - er end,



Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!”
And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!”
You o - pened heav - en’s king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

The early Lutheran Church would not have partaken in public confession and absolution, instead using private confession and absolution. The addition of confession and absolution for all at the beginning of worship became part of the Lutheran liturgy in America with the introduction of The Common Service of 1888.

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

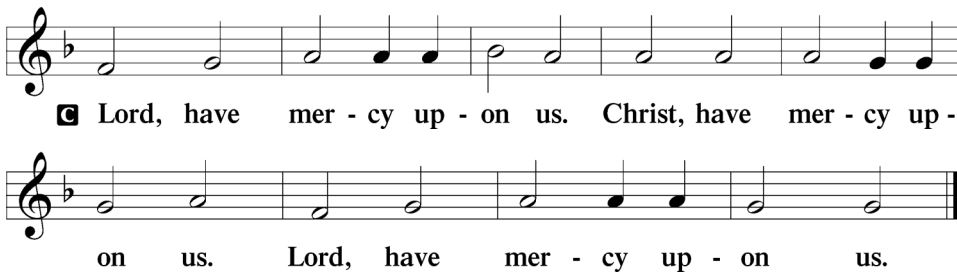
- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 ☩

The Service of the Word looks similar to how we celebrate it today. Luther prescribes a three-fold Kyrie, sung as the one below, followed by a chanted Collect. You will notice the Gloria is missing; While Christians in Luther's time would have sung the Gloria, he did not prescribe its use in "Deutsche Messe," and so we omit it today.

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.
Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Luther retained the centuries-old list of Scripture Lessons appointed for specific Sundays and festivals. He also retained the practice of singing (chanting) the readings, although we will retain our practice of simply reading them aloud. You will notice the absence of an Old Testament Reading, as these were added to the Lectionary much later. The hymn sung between the readings was specifically prescribed by Luther to be sung at this time - a prayer for the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the Gospel message that we will soon hear.

Epistle: Romans 3:19-28

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 3.

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

LSB 768



1 To God the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray
2 O sweet - est Love, Your grace on us be - stow;
3 Tran - scen - dent Com - fort in our ev - 'ry need,
4 Shine in our hearts, O Spir - it, pre - cious light;



For the true faith need - ed on our way
Set our hearts with sa - cred fire a - glow
Help us nei - ther scorn nor death to heed
Teach us Je - sus Christ to know a - right



That He may de - fend us when life is end - ing And from
That with hearts u - nit - ed we love each oth - er, Ev - 'ry
That we may not fal - ter nor cour - age fail us When the
That we may a - bide in the Lord who bought us, Till to



ex - ile home we are wend - ing. Lord, have mer - cy!
strang - er, sis - ter, and broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!
foe shall taunt and as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!
our true home He has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!

Holy Gospel: John 8:31-36

Please stand

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

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered Him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

In Luther's time, the Creed would have been sung, followed by a sermon on the Gospel reading. The Children's Message is a modern addition to the service, but one that is especially appropriate for a congregation with many young children, such as we have at Holy Cross.

Hymn: We All Believe in One True God

LSB 953



1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,
3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;
Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;
Who sus - tains and com - forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.
By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.
Bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

Children's Message

Please be seated/Sunday

Sermon

In this next part of the service, we deviate from Luther's "Deutsche Messe" in favor of some modern developments. While the Prayer of the Church is retained, the Welcome and Announcements, Offering, and Voluntary are more modern additions. Besides this, in response to celebrating the Confirmation of two members, we sing the modern hymn, "In Christ Alone." How appropriate that, on this day that we celebrate the Church throughout time, we sing hymns both historic and contemporary! As the hymn states, "Through the Church the song goes on."

Rite of Confirmation

3PM, 10:45AM

Hymn: In Christ Alone

Sunday/arr. David Gilson

Commissioned by Bruce and Dani Richardson, in joyful celebration of
Kayleigh's Confirmation
The choir sings stanza 3

Verse

Abadd9/Bb Eb Ab Bbadd9 Bb

In Christ a - lone my hope is found;
In Christ a - lone who took on flesh;
There in the ground His bod - y lay;
No guilt in life, no fear in death;

Eb/G Ab Eb/G Fm Abadd9/Bb Eb

He is my light, my strength, my song;
full - ness of God in help - less babe.
Light of the world by dark - ness slain.
this is the pow'r of Christ in me.

Abadd9/Bb Eb Ab Bbadd9 Bb

this Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground,
This gift of love and right - eous - ness
Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day,
From life's first cry to fi - nal breath,

Eb/G Ab Eb/G Fm Abadd9/Bb Eb

firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
scorned by the ones He came to save;
up from the grave He rose a - gain!
Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.

Eb/G Abadd9 Cm7 Bb

What heights of love, what depths of peace
'til on that cross as Je - sus died
And as He stands in vic - to - ry
No power of hell, no scheme of man

when the sin's can fears wrath curse ev - are of has still - ed, God lost pluck when was its grip from striv - ings sat - is - on His cease; fied; me; hand

my for for 'til Com - fort - er, ev - 'ry sin His on and or All Him was is me All; laid; mine, home,

here here bought here in in the with the love death of the pre - cious pow'r of Christ Christ blood of Christ I I stand. live. Christ! stand!

Luther instructs, "After hearing the Word, and in preparation for the Sacrament, here follows a paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer and an admonition for those who wish to partake of the Sacrament."

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.**

Welcome and Announcements

Please Be Seated

Offering & Rite of Fellowship

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 and return it to its spot when finished. If you are interested in membership, please provide a phone number or email address so that we may contact you. Thank you.

Choral Voluntary: O God, You Saw My Early Being Robert A. Hobby; Sunday

O God, you saw my early being when no one else was seeing--
knitting me within my mother's womb, weaving me upon a living loom.
marking days of my life's span according to your plan.

O Christ, you cleansed me and forgave me, yes, only you could save me--
baptized into you, your dying breath; buried with you, raised with you from death;
now no more an heir of shame, you gave me your own name!

O Christ, I starve in sin; come feed me that food by which you freed me--
very body given when you died, very blood poured out, O Crucified;
meal of thanks for great and least: you seat me at your feast!

O Spirit, holy Comfort, guide me; your Word, a cleft to hide me--
still, small voice, you keep me through each storm, breathing life into my earthen
form;
with your love my life infuse to serve now, where you choose.

O God Most High, my Start and Ending, to you, I am commending--
soul and body, every care and fear, every time and season, day and year;
God of Grace, grant your shalom till I am welcomed home.

- Stephen P. Starke

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Luther has several ideas on how to celebrate the Sacrament. While some are impractical for our purposes (such as distributing the bread to all, followed by the wine, thus creating two trips to the rail), others we will follow. Most notably, you may notice that the Service of the Sacrament's liturgy is greatly abbreviated. Luther prescribes the Sanctus and Agnus Dei to be sung during distribution rather than prior, a practice we will follow today.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

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.

- P** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

- 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."

Pax Domini

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

C Amen.

Agnus Dei: "Lamb of God"

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The final measure of the fifth staff is a whole note chord consisting of G, B, and D, marked with a double bar line.

Distribution for Holy Communion

Please be seated

Luther suggested hymns 617 and 627 as appropriate hymns for distribution. LSB 960 is a paraphrase of the Sanctus. LSB 582 was written for the 300th anniversary of the Reformation in 1817 - Lutherans have been celebrating the Reformation for a long time!

Distribution Hymns:

LSB 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

LSB 960 Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old

LSB 582 God's Word is Our Great Heritage

LSB 627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

Dismissal LSB 199

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

LSB 200

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.**

Luther directed the clergy to use the words of blessing which God gave Old Testament priests to use for blessing the people of Israel. While Luther did not prescribe a closing hymn, modern Lutherans found the end of this service to be abrupt, and so we sing a hymn, a practice that is cherished by many today, ending the service on a celebratory note.

Benedicamus

LSB 218

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

See Next Page

Closing Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

LSB 656



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 With might of ours can naught be done,
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
All ea - ger to de - vour us,
Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
But for us fights the val - iant One,
We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
Christ it is; Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
as he will, He can harm us none.
child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



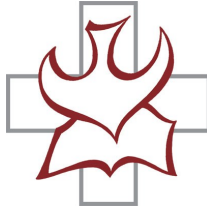
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
And there's none oth - er God; He holds
He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -

is not his e - qual.
the field for - ev - er.
tle word can fell him.
dom ours re - main eth.

Silent Prayer & Chimes

Postlude: A Mighty Fortress

Stephen L. Aber



Confirmation

On Saturday, October 24, 2026

KATHERINE ELIZABETH WIESE, daughter of Frederick III (III) and Carla Wiese, was born on October 18, 2011, in Daytona, Florida. She was reborn through the waters of Holy Baptism on May 13, 2012, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wentzville, Missouri, with Frederick Wiese IV, Carl Wiese, and Benjamin Wiese as Baptismal sponsors.

Katie's confirmation verse:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

On Sunday, October 25, 2026

KAYLEIGH BETH HARDEBECK, daughter of Gail A. Hardebeck and Jason M. Hardebeck, stepdaughter of Erin Hardebeck and Michael Hegger, was born on November 2, 2012, in St. Louis, Missouri. She was reborn through the waters of Holy Baptism on September 29, 2013, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in O'Fallon, Missouri, with Mike Bentley and Carol Bentley as Baptismal sponsors.

Kayleigh's confirmation verse:

**"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three,
but the greatest of these is love."**

1 Corinthians 13:13

Serving in God's House Today: October 24 & 25, 2026

Preacher	Pastor Andrew J. Gimbel	
Liturgist	Pastor Jacob P. Kohm	
Seminarians	Jacob Bode, Kyle Beckstrom, Clyde Diercks	
Director of Christian Education	Charity Smith	
Music Director	David Gilson	
Guest Organist on Saturday	Jill Kirk	
Musicians on Sunday	Adult Choir Choir Accompanist: Sara Shroth Violinist: Drake Nagle Brass: Byron Alton, Matt Alton, Rob Duss, Larry Shroth, Brian Storm	
Elders	Saturday, 3PM	Rick Wiese/Solomon Conrad
	Sunday, 8AM	Ed Belter
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Bruce Richardson
Ushers	Saturday, 3PM	Refer to Elder
	Sunday, 8AM	Terry Hardy, Mike Vesper
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Refer to Elder
Altar Guild	Wednesday	Kari Spearman
	Friday	Millie Besesi
	Saturday	Sandy Dietz, Dianne Helvey, Barb Grosch
	Sunday 8AM	Millie Besesi, Sue McCann (1st & 3rd)
	Sunday 10:45AM	Asleigh Lacey, Patti Koepp (2nd & 4th) Jan Flentke, Kathy Weseman (1st & 3rd) Judie Woelfer, Carol Crafton (2nd & 4th)

COVER: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/06/061755f2-ad4e-4521-a759-77804bec2863/site-images/33385511-34e1-49ca-abbc-cef12d8cf2d9@2x.png>

Acknowledgments

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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