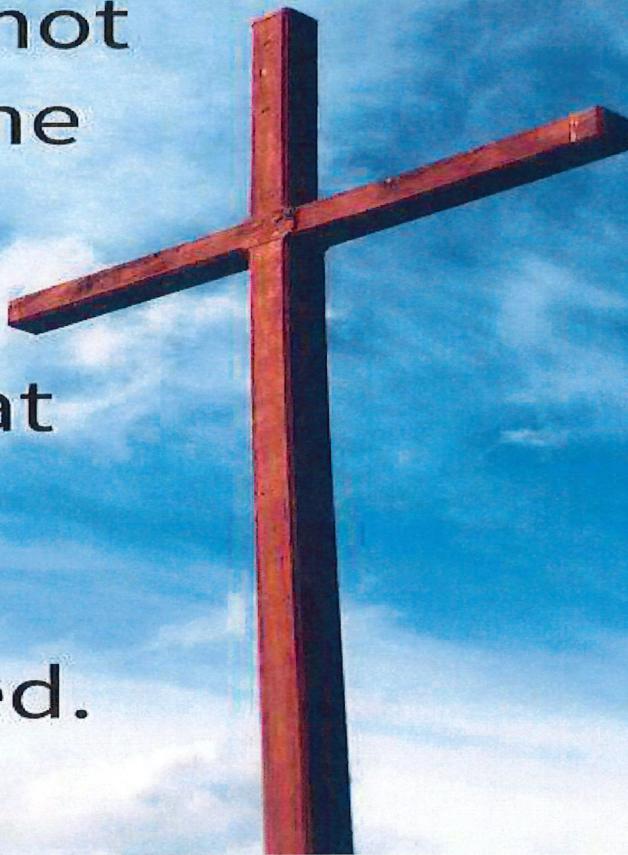


For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:17



John 3:13-17

First Lutheran Church

September 14, 2025

Holy Cross Day

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

CRUCIFER

John A. Behnke

*Lift High the Cross*

(Please stand)

## MORNING PRAYER

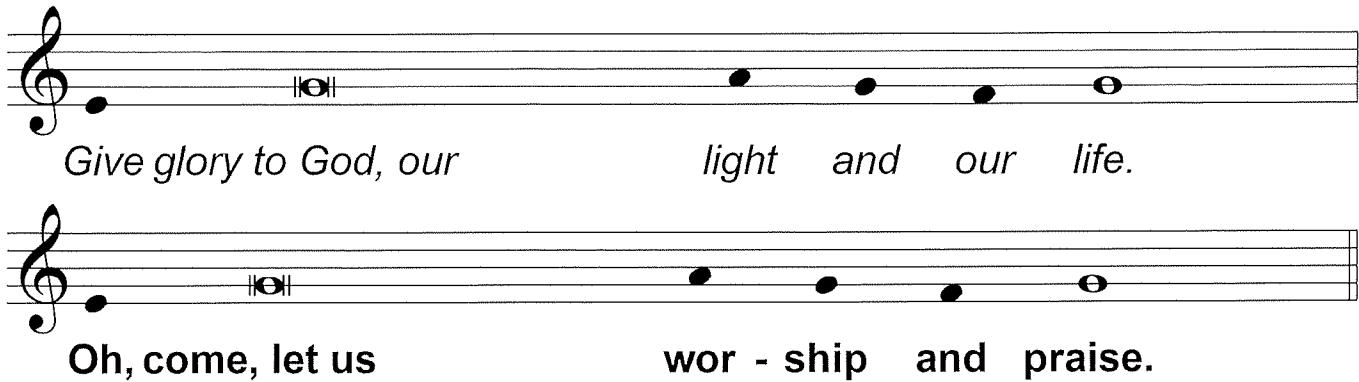
### OPENING DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY



Leader: O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,  
and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## PSALMODY

### INVITATORY

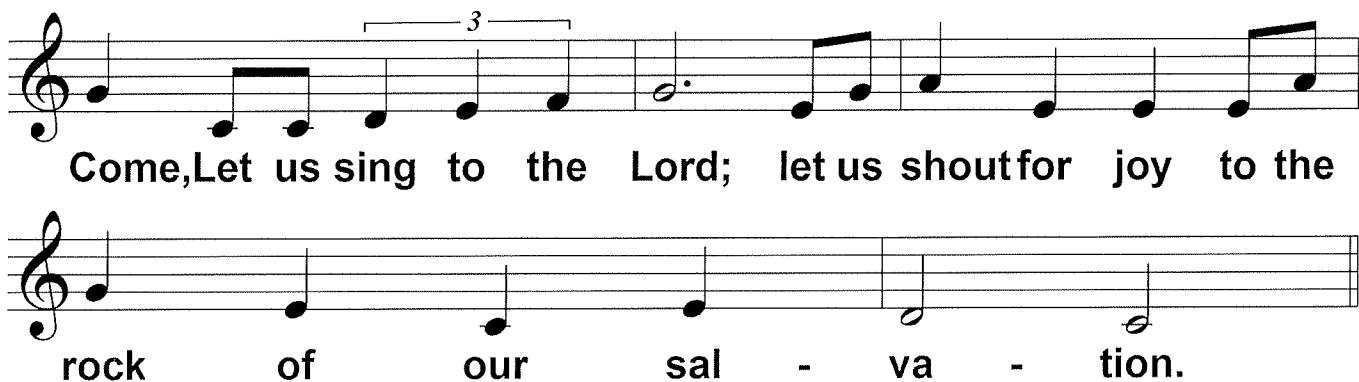


Give glory to God, our light and our life.

Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

### MORNING PSALM OF PRAISE

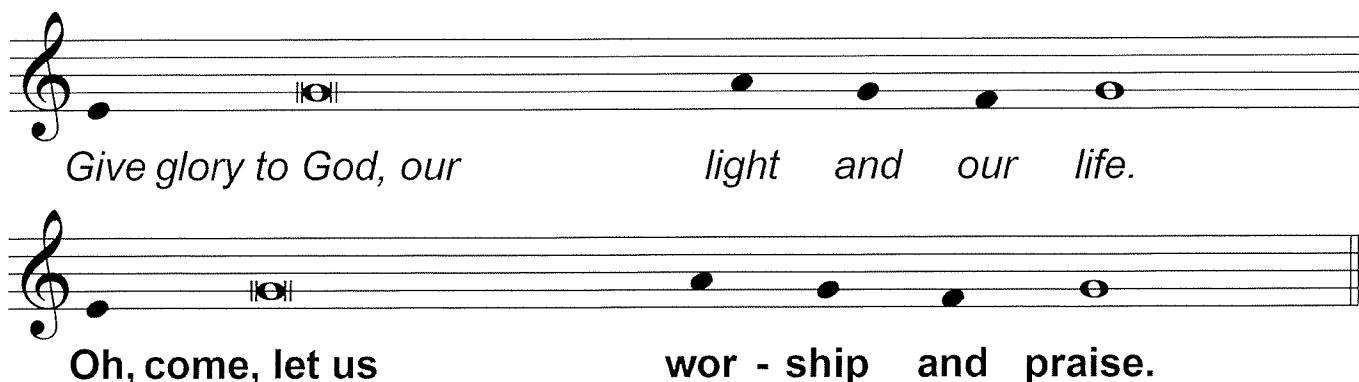
PSALM 95:1-7



Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the  
rock of our sal - va - tion.

*The Cantor will sing the verses.*

### FINAL INVITATORY



Give glory to God, our light and our life.

Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

## **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: Amen.

(Please be seated)

## **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

*Rick Greene*

## **FIRST READING**

**NUMBERS 21:4B-9**

*L: A reading from Numbers, the twenty-first chapter.*

[From Mount Horeb the Israelites set out,]<sup>4b</sup> but the people became discouraged on the way.<sup>5</sup> 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."<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> 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."<sup>9</sup> 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.

*L: The word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-24**

*L: A reading from First Corinthians, the first chapter.*

<sup>18</sup> 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

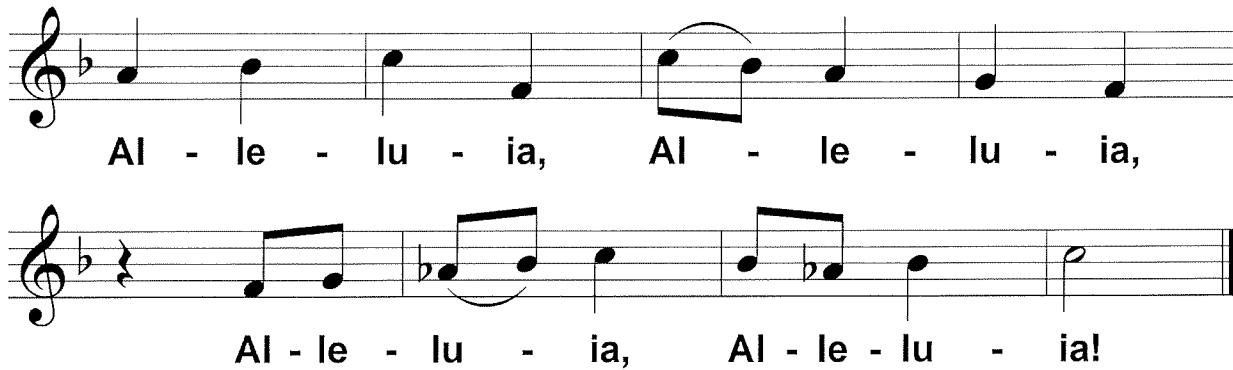
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

*L: The word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

*Cantor: May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Gal. 6:14)*

**GOSPEL**

**JOHN 3:13-17**

*P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter.*

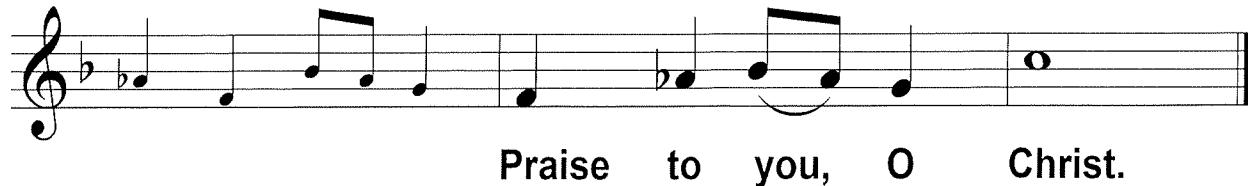


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <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.”

*P: This is the gospel of our Lord.*



Praise to you, O Christ.

## Lift High the Cross

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER. Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

(Please be seated)

## REFLECTION

**BRENT GARDNER, SAM\***

\*Synod Authorized Minister - An ELCA SAM is a Synodically Authorized Minister, a layperson trained and authorized by our synod bishop to lead worship and administer sacraments in a specific congregation for a limited time, often when it's not feasible to have a rostered minister. SAM serve in partnership with ordained pastors, providing vital leadership and sacramental care to smaller congregations.

(Please stand)

## CANTICLE

*Refrain*

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our  
God the dawn from on high shall  
break up - on us.

*The Cantor will sing the verses.*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**P:** *Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.*

**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;  
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.**

*(Please be seated)*

**OFFERING AND BELLS OF PRAISE**  
**HAMBURG**

Jason W. Krug

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

(Please stand)

**OFFERING SONG**

**ELW # 338**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

**OFFERING PRAYER**

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please kneel)*

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION***

P: Gracious God,  
we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

L: Sustaining God, guide your church on the way.  
May we look to the cross and live.

*Each petition concludes:*

P: God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: Amen.**

*(Please stand)*

***LORD'S PRAYER***

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

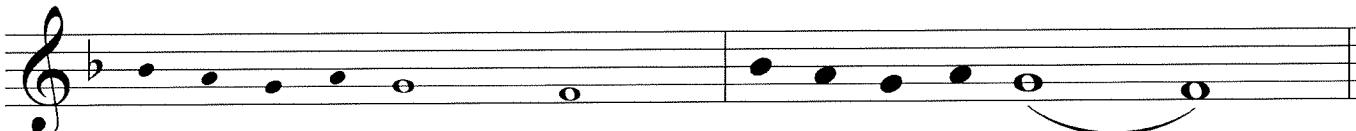
**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## SENDING

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

C: Oh God,  
your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.  
We are grateful  
for the goodness you have shown us through the years,  
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.  
Bless our community of faith, bless our healing,  
bless the changes that are before us,  
bless our pastoral leaders  
who will shepherd us through this time of transition.  
We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us  
as we align with your will, and servant or servants  
you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time.  
Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry  
and our future.  
In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord, Amen.

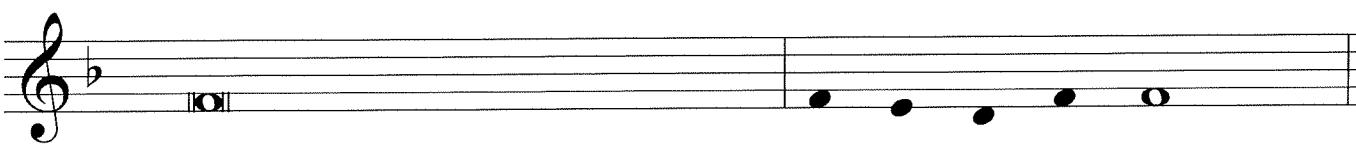
### BLESSING



Intonation Presider: Let us bless the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



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 for - ev - er.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace.

P: Do not lose heart.

**C: Thanks be to God.****POSTLUDE**

RATHBUN

David M. Cherwien

*Toccata on IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST / GLORY*

## Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>	<b>Sept 14</b>
10:00AM	Church Service
	Blessing of the Backpacks
<u>Monday</u>	<b>Sept 15</b>
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
1:30AM	Bookworms Meeting
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	<b>Sept 16</b>
<u>Wednesday</u>	<b>Sept 17</b>
5:30PM	Council Meeting
<u>Thursday</u>	<b>Sept 18</b>
<u>Friday</u>	<b>Sept 19</b>
<u>Saturday</u>	<b>Sept 20</b>

### Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	<b>Sept 21</b>
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	<b>Sept 22</b>
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	<b>Sept 23</b>
<u>Wednesday</u>	<b>Sept 24</b>
9-5PM	Life Line Screening
<u>Thursday</u>	<b>Sept 25</b>
7:00PM	Community Prayer @ St. Francis
<u>Friday</u>	<b>Sept 26</b>
<u>Saturday</u>	<b>Sept 27</b>

*Brent Gardner, SAM\**

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## Rummage & Bake Sale

Thank you for the huge support from the members of First in making the Rummage and Bake Sale such a huge success.

## Lawn Mower for the Week



**Jim Ruess**

## Contact Us



### **First Lutheran Church**

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419-447-1323

[www.firstlutherantiffin.com](http://www.firstlutherantiffin.com)

[firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com)

## *Interim Pastor*

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

## *Our Worship Leaders*

*Altar Guild:* Bonnie & Mike Oberlander

*Cantor:* Elijah Shiley

*Facebook Camera:* The Rosses

*Host:* Janet Zirger

*Reader:* Shelley Ross

*Worship Assistant:* Shelley Ross

*Director of Music:* Curtis L. King

*Presiding Layperson:* Brent Gardner

## *Emergency Pastors*

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

**Mike Porter**

(585) 813-5009

**Pastor Philip Scherr**

(814) 756-9435

## *Our Mission Statement*

**“God is among us!”**

**“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”**

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