

**Holy Cross Sunday**  
**September 14, 2025**

## **We hope you feel welcome here.**

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice, racial equity, and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

## **We hope you can participate fully in worship.**

Today's worship service is printed in this bulletin; the hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) found under the seat in front of you. Places to stand are marked with \* and to respond are indicated with bold type. Please sit, stand, and move as you need to be comfortable. Use a blue chair with arms or move orange chairs to accommodate mobility needs. Assisted hearing devices and large-print worship aids are available from an ushers.

Our youngest worshipers may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the worship space or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags are available in the narthex and children's bulletins are available from an usher.

**We hope you know Holy Communion is for you.**

At communion, everyone is welcome. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

**We hope you know our welcome extends beyond our building.**

Gifts placed in the offering plate during the worship service contribute to this mission. Today's 8:30 a.m. service is livestreamed. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

**We hope you know we pray for you.**

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors.

## + GATHERING +

*We gather quietly to allow space for one another to transition from the busy world into worship.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT

Early Childhood Education

*The litany is based on the words of St. Paul, Martin Luther, Soren Kierkegaard, Jürgen Moltmann, Vitor Westhelle, and Deanna Thompson, naming the cross not as the source of condemnation, but of solidarity in suffering and redemption from sin.*

\*LITANY FOR HOLY CROSS DAY

P: We glory in your cross, O Lord,

**C: and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

P: The message of the cross is foolishness, but to us it is the power of God.

**C: We glory in your cross, O Lord.**

P: A theologian of glory calls good evil and evil good. The cross reveals every false god and unmask every tempting idol.

**C: We glory in your cross, O Lord.**

P: A theologian of the cross calls the thing what it is. Our world and we, ourselves, need God's grace.

**C: We glory in your cross, O Lord.**

P: The cross calls us not to admire Christ, but to follow.

**C: We glory in your cross, O Lord.**

P: The cross is the hope of the world, for in the cross God does not stand far off, but weeps with us.

**C: We glory in your cross, O Lord.**

P: The cross gathers the cries of creation and holds them before God.

**C: We glory in your cross, O Lord.**

P: The cross does not glorify suffering,  
but reveals God's solidarity with those who  
suffer.

**C: We glory in your cross, O Lord.**

P: We glory in your cross, O Lord,

**C: and we praise your holy  
resurrection, for by your cross joy has  
come into the world.**

*Hymns give common voice to human longing.*

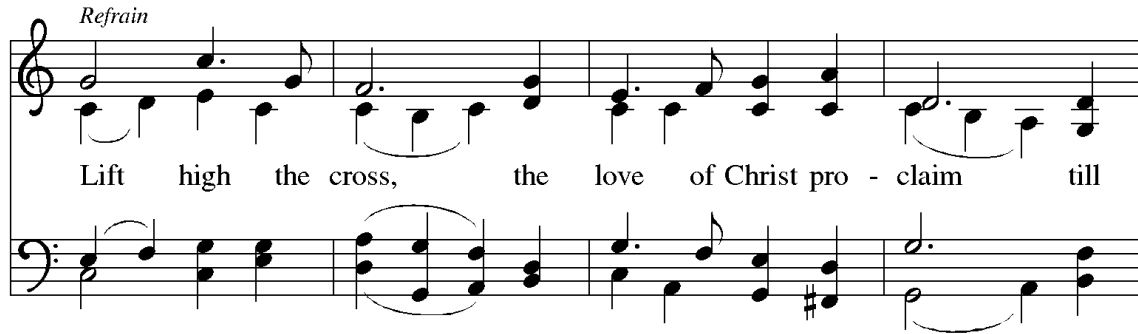
\*ENTRANCE HYMN

Lift High the Cross

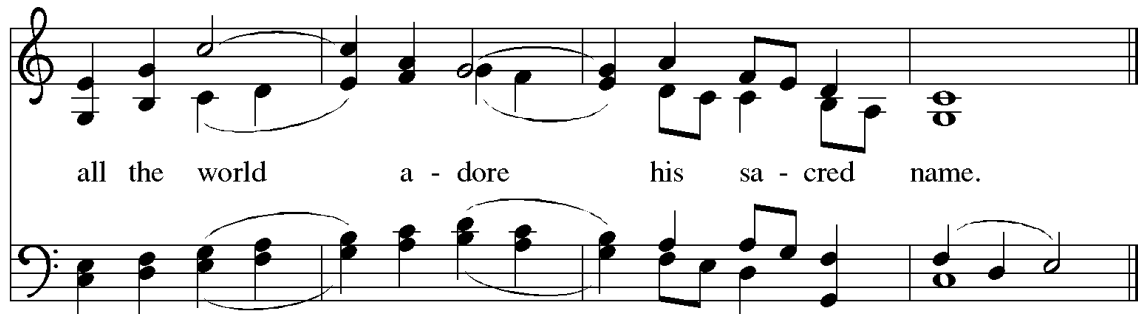
ELW#660

# Lift High the Cross

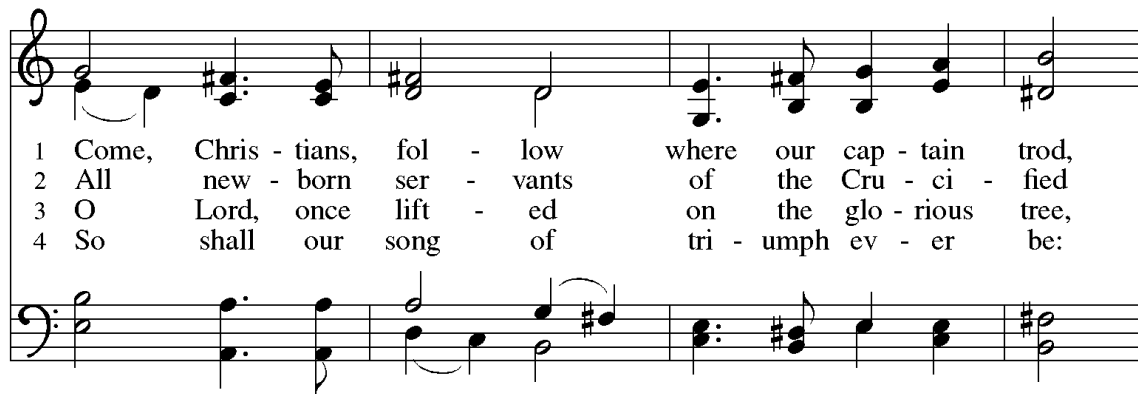
*Refrain*



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

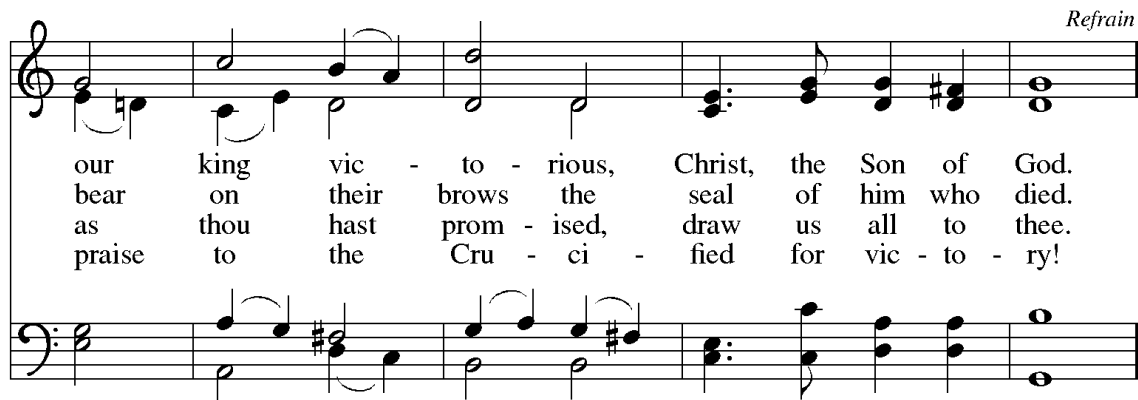


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants 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

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**\*GREETING**

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.**

*The Kyrie and Hymn of Praise, staples of the liturgy, hold together lament and praise, naming both pain and joy.*



# \*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. 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.**

## +WORD+

*A special moment for children fosters belonging, encourages curiosity, and reminds us all that there are many ways to be faithful.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Lecia Beck

*Each reading has its own reader, as no single voice holds all truth. All genders and ages are invited to read with the hope of eliminating hierarchy and division among us.*

## FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4b-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and

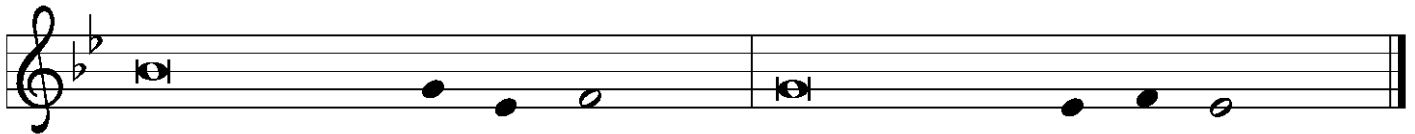
against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We 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. 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." 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: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Psalms invite us to explore new ways to pray while giving words to the fullness of human experience.*

## PSALM 98:1-4



Sing a new song to the Lord, who has  
done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won  
the victory.

**O Lord, you have made | known your  
victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness  
in the sight | of the nations.**

You remember your steadfast love and  
faithfulness to the | house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the  
victory | of our God.

**Shout with joy to the Lord, | all you  
lands;  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

SECOND READING      1 Corinthians 1:18-24

For 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. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I  
will thwart.”

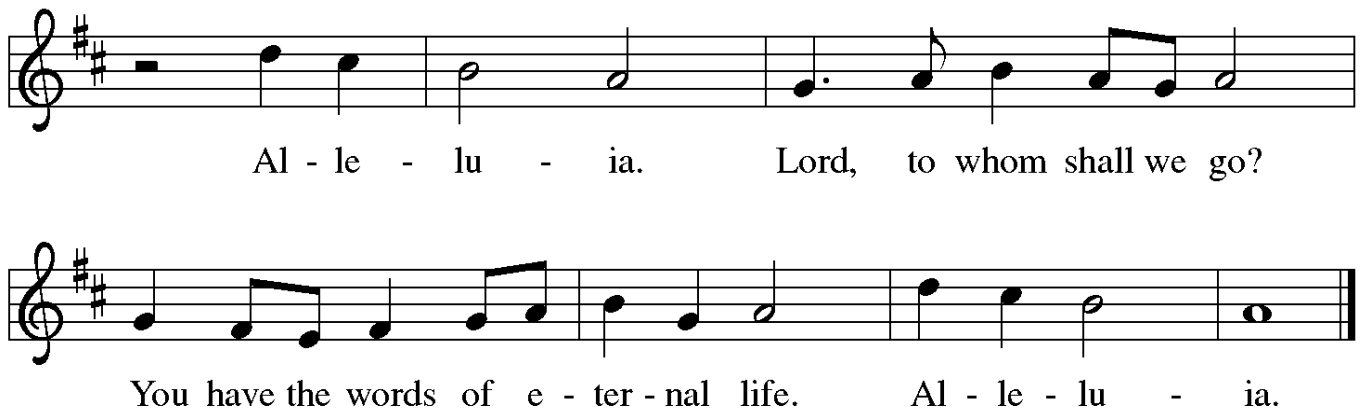
Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The rhythm of worship includes silence and song.*

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

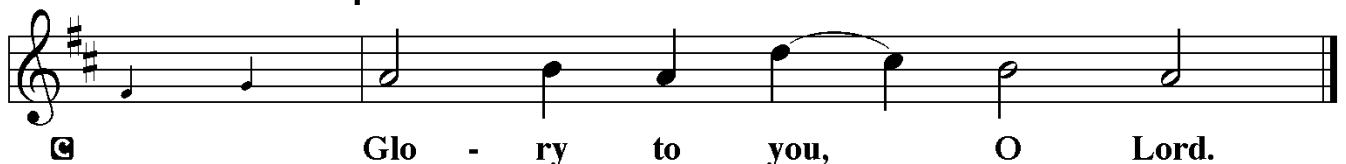
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?' with a melodic line. The second staff contains the lyrics 'You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.' with a melodic line.

## \*HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

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



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

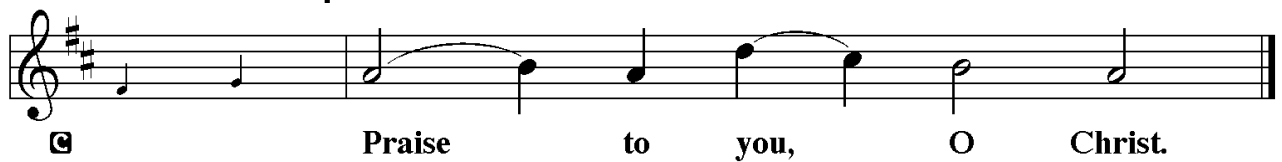
The image shows a single staff of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The lyrics 'Glo - ry to you, O Lord.' are written below the staff, with a melodic line above them.

Jesus said, "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“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.

“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: The Gospel of Our Lord!



*The sermon and hymn of the day invite time for reflection. Worshipers may listen, pray, sing along, or simply rest in God's presence.*

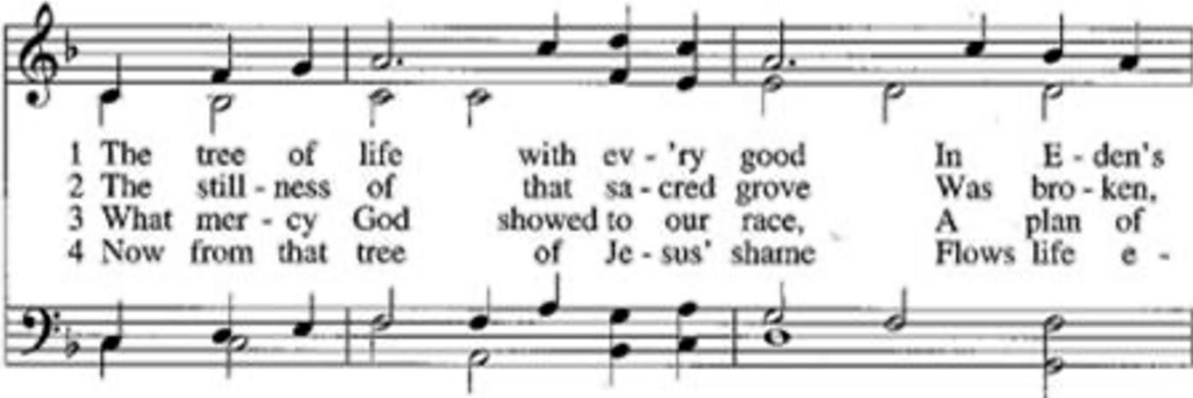
SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

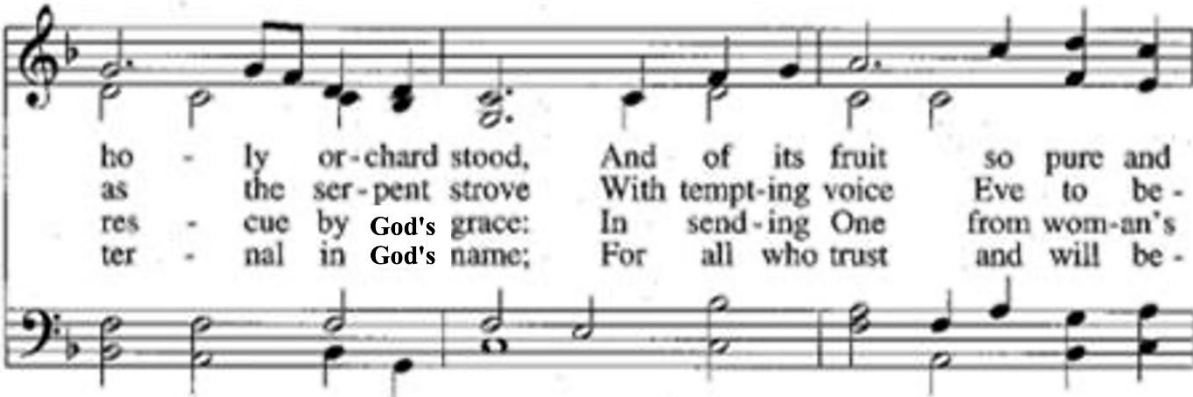


# \*HYMN OF THE DAY

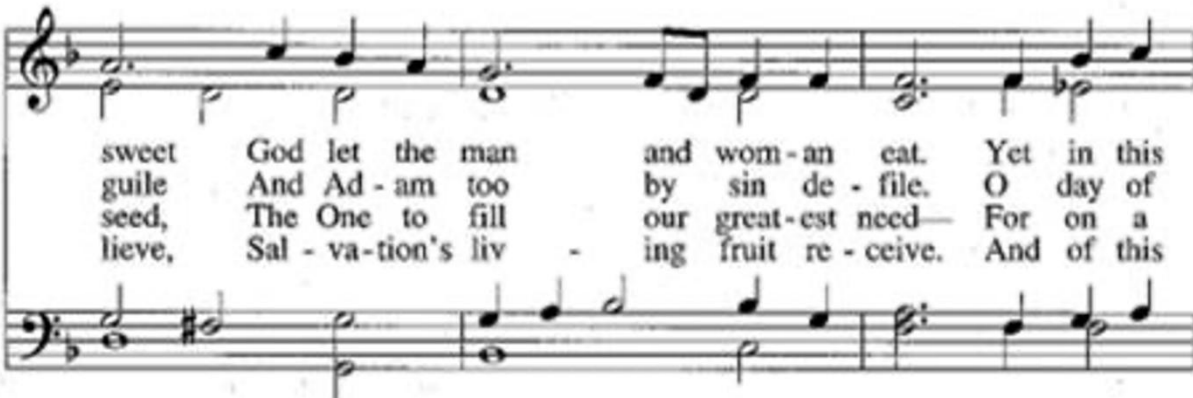
# The Tree of Life



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's  
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,  
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of  
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and  
 as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
 res - cue by God's grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's  
 ter - nal in God's name; For all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this  
 guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of  
 seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a  
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they  
 sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and  
 tree up - lift - ed high God's on - ly Son for sin would  
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to

knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -  
 death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -  
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and  
 eat, To find with - in this cross of

dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
 played With - in the world so new - ly made.  
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!  
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Text: Stephen P Starke, b. 1955. Tune: Bruce W. Becker, b. 1952.  
 Setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948. Concordia Publishing House 2006.

*Together, we affirm the faith in which we baptize. We hold these words in common, confessing that we hold faith for one another, even in the face of doubt and fear.*

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.**

**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.**

## \*BLESSING OF VESTMENTS

*A chasuble, which is a garment which can be worn by the presiding minister at Eucharist in the seasonal colors, has been crafted by Suzanne Halverson and will be blessed for use at St. Thomas.*

*Prayers are offered on behalf of ourselves, others, and the created world.*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

*A brief silence.*

A: Holy God, we pray for Iglesia Santo Domingo Guzman, Chichipate, Guatemala, for Lutheran Church of the Living Waters, for LuMin Campus Ministries at IU, and for our neighbor faith communities. Deepen our commitment to mercy and justice. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Holy God, we pray for all who gather the harvest, in combine harvesters and grain elevators, in fields and orchards, in chicken

factories and trucks. Confirm our commitment to care for all you are making, and grant us wisdom and strength to share in your gracious work of renewing creation. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Holy God, you are the judge of the nations. We name before you the serpents that are bringing fear and death among us: greed, hardheartedness, hunger for power, violence, famine, and the heedless abuse of natural resources. Help us hold up to the world the healing power of your justice and mercy. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Holy God, we pray for immigrants, refugees and the people who serve them, especially for the safety of Exodus's clients and staff and for refugees and immigrants in our community. We pray also for victims of armed conflict, gun violence, political repression, and climate disaster. In Monroe

County and around the world, help us to treasure one another's lives. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Holy God, bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, isolated, grieving, or in pain especially Kaye, Gloria, Jonathan, Lyman, John, Lauren, Leslie, Audrey, Lynn, Dallis, Doug, Yvonne, Kent, and Mark. Show us how to offer your mercy to others. Be near those who stand at the doorway of death. God of grace,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Holy God, we bless you for the life and work of Hildegarde of Bingen, poet and Doctor of the Church; for Harriet Tubman, who led hundreds of people from slavery to freedom; and for Dag Hammerskjöld, peacemaker. Give us some measure of their boldness, their generous kindness, and their joy. God of grace,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn. Help us to trust that, even after death, we are held in your love. God of grace,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: Amen.**

*The peace is a sign of reconciliation and  
belonging, but it is never forced upon anyone.*

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or  
maybe an elbow, checking in with your  
neighbor for whatever feels safe and  
conveys the spirit of peace and  
reconciliation this ritual intends.*

*The offering is a collection of material goods for the church's mission and a symbol of the giving of ourselves in response to God's grace.*

## OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community pads**. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service.*

*An offering is collected as a grateful response for all of God's gifts. Gifts support St. Thomas's mission of living, sharing, and celebrating God's grace with all people. A portion of our offerings support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners. **You may place gifts in the offering plate as it reaches you or give on our website, [stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org) (the QR code will direct you).***





8:30 a.m. only

## OFFERTORY

Matthew Benkert

11 a.m. only

## CHORAL ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

## \*OFFERTORY HYMN

Go to the World

ACS#991



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

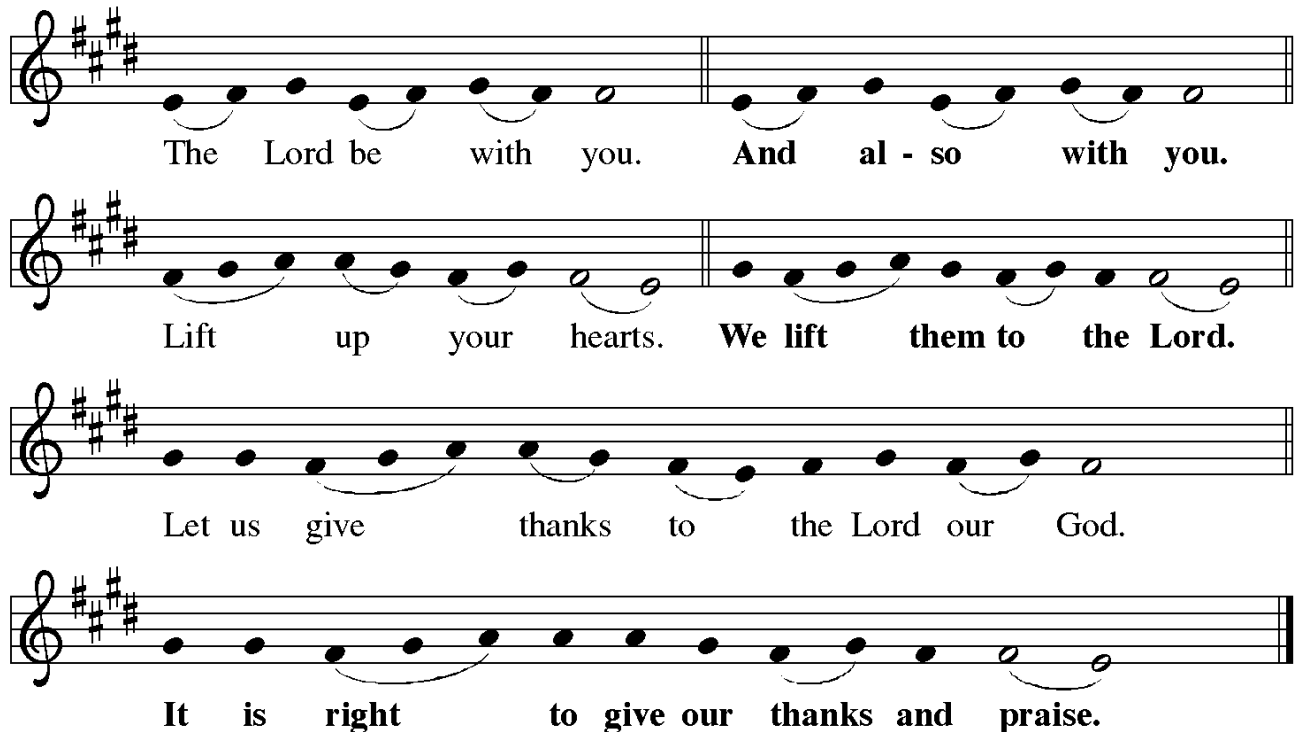
## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. 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.**

## + MEAL +

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold.

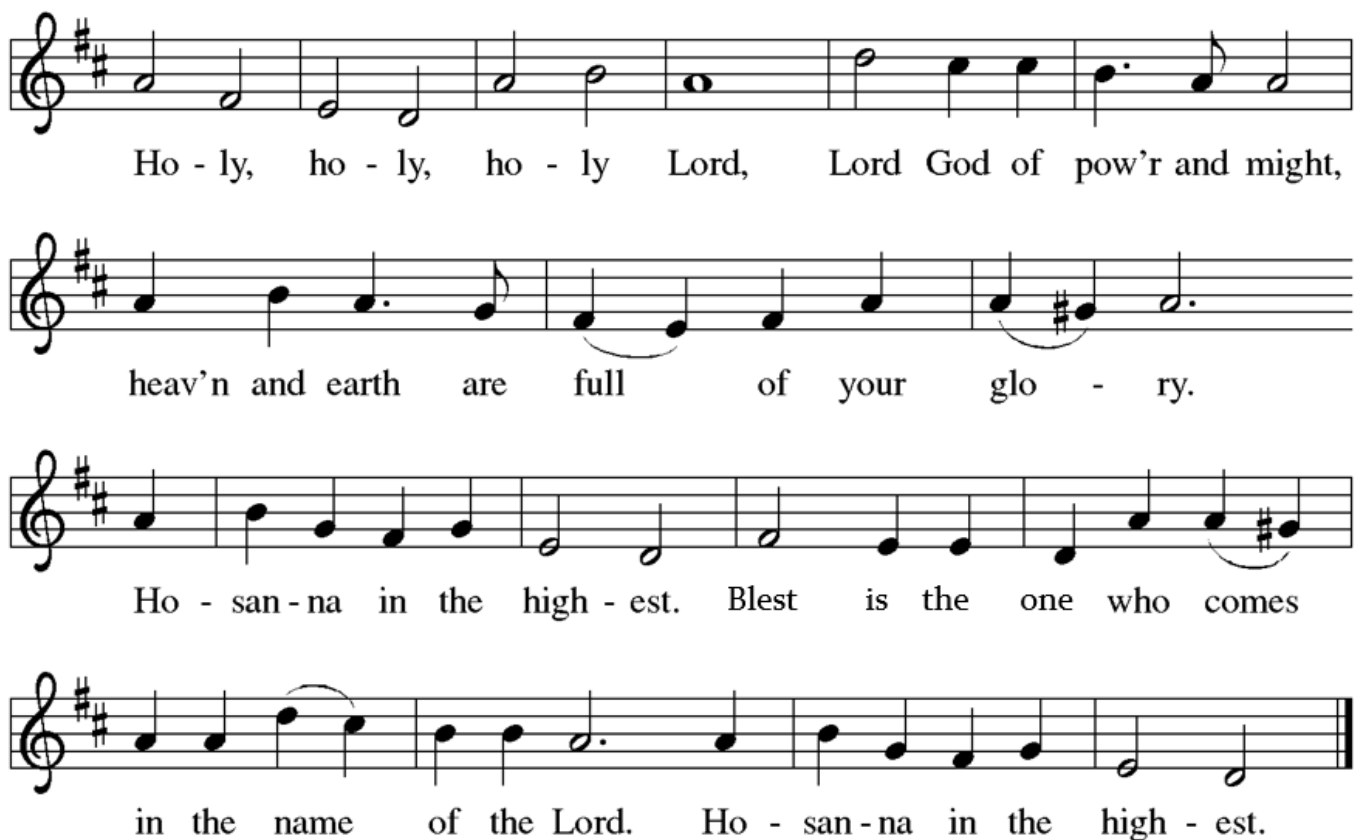
The Lord be with you. **And** al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift** them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right** to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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. Blest is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*This prayer remembers God's steadfast presence in the midst of suffering, betrayal, and death. We repeat this story whenever we gather as an invitation to resilience and because it is also a story of hope and transformation for the whole world*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy

people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

*Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete. Q'eqchi' is provided on the next page.*

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on Earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

At qayuwa' wankat sa' chooxa  
Usil aatinab'il ta laa k'ab'a  
Chi chalq ta laa nimajwal awabejihom  
Chi uxq ta li nakawaj arin sa' ruuchich'och' jo'  
sa' chooxa  
Chak'e ta qe hoom li qawa chi rajlal kutan  
Chakuy chasach ta li qamaak  
Jo' laa'o xqakuy xmaak li ani xmaako' chi qu  
Ut mohaakanab' ta chi t'ane'k sa' li aaleek  
Chohaakolaq b'an chi ru li maa'us  
Jo'kan taxak.

*Jesus is the host of this meal, fully present among us, and we are all honored guests at this feast. The table has been carefully set and blessed in gratitude. While only morsels of bread or wafer, juice or wine, are received, they are, for us, a taste of the feast God spreads for everyone, and all of creation, in eternity. What a wonder to be welcome at this table!*

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*We believe that God is our host and that all people are welcome to this feast of grace, community, and forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of an usher, and receive bread or gluten-free wafer and wine in a common chalice or pink wine and red grape juice in individual cups. If you wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.*

## 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



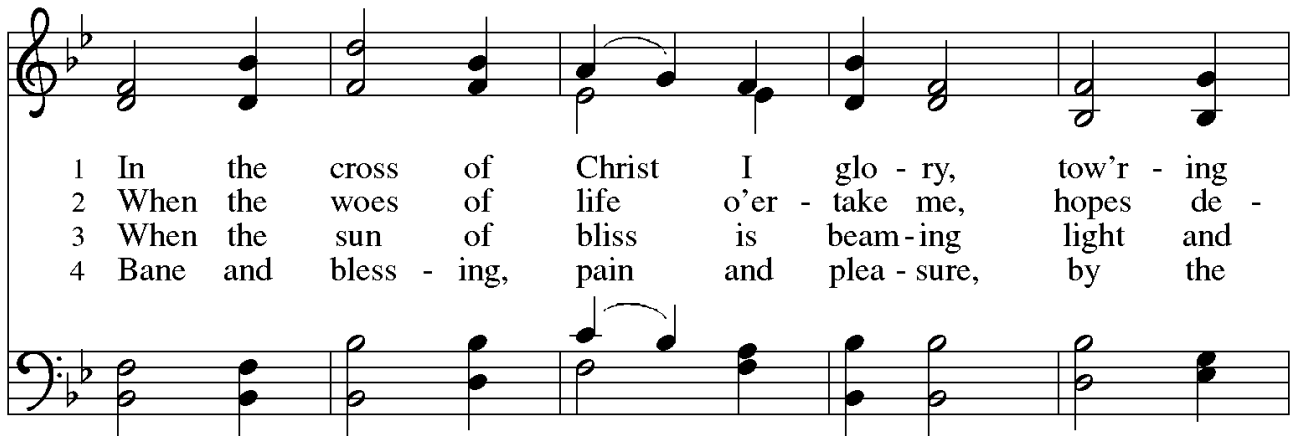
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



# COMMUNION HYMNS

## In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW#324



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

# When I Survey that Wondrous Cross

ELW#803

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

**\*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

*We are empowered, given the Spirit's gifts, and sent out into the world as bearers, not only recipients, of God's peace and good news.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

# \*SENDING HYMN

## Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

ELW#378



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;  
2 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;  
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!  
4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my Sav - ior true;  
5 Christ brings me to the por - tal that leads to bliss un - told,



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.  
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.  
my Lord will leave me nev - er, what - e'er he pass - es through.  
where-on this rhyme im - mor - tal is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made  
For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry  
No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,  
He rends death's i - ron chain; he breaks through sin and pain;  
“Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown pre - pared;



when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.  
he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.  
he shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low him through all.  
who there with me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied.”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt.  
Music: AUF, AUF, MEIN HERZ, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

\*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*We depart in peace to continue our worship  
in lives of witness to Christ's love  
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

\*\*\*

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The texts for the scripture readings are from the NRSVue, emendations are provided by the pastoral staff of St. Thomas.

## **At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas**

### **Sunday September 14**

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum: Climate Ambassador  
Training  
9:45 a.m. LuMin Grab & Go Lunch  
11 a.m. Worship  
12:15 p.m. LuMin Grab & Go Lunch

### **Monday September 15**

9:45 a.m. Worship at Bell Trace  
1 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study

### **Tuesday September 16**

Office Opening Late  
1:30 p.m. Altar Guild Meeting  
7 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

### **Thursday September 18**

5:30 p.m. Brown Bag Choir Dinner  
7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **Friday September 19**

4 p.m. IU Field Hockey Game

### **Saturday September 20**

10 a.m. Memorial Service for Elif Ogan

### **Sunday September 21**

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum: Climate Ambassador  
Training  
11 a.m. Worship  
12:15 p.m. Council Meeting

## ***Next Steps***

Looking for a way to get involved at STLC? Try this next step:

### **Lord's Prayer Leader**

Lead the congregation in the Lord's Prayer during worship. This role is for everyone, but is a particularly lovely way for young children to see themselves as worship leaders (which they are). Contact the church office if you are interested in this next step.

[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

Our bulletin always includes the Lord's Prayer in many languages. Let us include the language of your heart in our worship. Submit additional versions to the church office.

[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

### **LuMin Grab and Go Lunch Today!**

Free grab and go lunches are available for students **after each service today** in the library. Students are invited to fill a bag with snacks and treats of your choice and stick around as long as you like for conversation.

## **Memorial Service for Elif Ogan**

Funeral Services for Elif Ogan, who passed away on Wednesday July 2, will be held at St. Thomas on **Saturday, September 20 at 10 a.m.** Visitation begins at 9 a.m. There will be a luncheon in Community Hall following the service. If you wish to contribute food or volunteer your time, please contact Jaydene Laros.

## **Worship and the Arts Concert Series: Bloomington Bach Cantata Project**

Members of the St. Thomas community are warmly invited to the sixteenth season's performances by the Bloomington Bach Cantata Project. They present cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach in performances modeled on his own; each concert includes a performance, a short talk about the day's cantata, and a second performance in which everyone can hear new and different things. Please join in **today at 2:30 p.m.** for "O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort" BWV 60 directed by Gabriel Fanelli.



## **St. Thomas Meet-up at IU Field Hockey, Friday, September 19, 4 p.m.**

You're invited to join other St. Thomas folks to support IU's field hockey team. We'll meet up (no sign-up or ticket purchase necessary) at Deborah Tobias Field (1606 N. Fee Lane) to watch IU take on Iowa.

## **St. Thomas at Spencer Pride, Saturday, October 4**

Sign up on the Welcome Desk to host the St. Thomas table at this great community celebration around the downtown square in Spencer. If you enjoy meeting people and telling them about our congregation, sign up for a three-hour shift (a bit longer than the shifts at Bloomington Pride, but still under a shady tent in comfy chairs and with cooler temps). We especially need help with the tear-down shift.

## **Celebrating Creation and Blessing Pets**

2025 marks the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Francis's composition of "Canticle of Creation," which, in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is hymn 835. The hymn celebrates all aspects of creation – creatures, planets, elements, even death. We'll celebrate the hymn, and, with it, all of creation, at the end of September and the beginning of October. **On Sunday, October 5 at the 11 a.m. service**, well-behaved pets are welcome to worship with us and receive a blessing.



## **Pie with the Pastors**

Have you been worshiping at St. Thomas and wondering what the next step might be? If you've been curious about becoming a member—or just want to get to know the pastors

and learn more about the life of the congregation—we'd love to invite you to Pie with the Pastors this **Sunday, September 28 at 4:00 p.m. in Community Hall**. This is a relaxed and friendly gathering with *actual pie* and good conversation. Pastor Adrienne and Pastor Lecia will be there to share a bit about what membership at St. Thomas means and to hear your stories, questions, and hopes. Whether you're ready to take that step or still exploring, you are already part of the life of St. Thomas just by being here. The ministries of this church are for everyone—but becoming a member is a way to help shape where we're headed, together. New members will be received in worship on November 9.

## **Prayers for those with health and safety concerns:**

Kaye Hill, Gloria Hitchcock, Jonathan Miller, Lyman Hitchcock, John Kinzer, Lauren Halvorson, Leslie Main, Audrey Alpers, Lynn Weddle, Dallis Fox-Nagal, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Kent Unger, and Mark Wilkes.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at [skcolston@aol.com](mailto:skcolston@aol.com) to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

## **The altar flowers this week are given**

by Judy Louise  
in honor of her grandsons  
Harvey and Everett Newell.

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

Altar Care: Ute Coyne, Rebekah Arnold,  
Lydia Arnold

Bread & Wine: Gretchen Moehlmann

Flower Guild: Mary Thomason-Smith  
and Melody Smith

Prayer Writer: Pamela Smith

Coffee Crew: Larry & Mary Moore,  
Vicki Polansky

A/V Tech: Jim Ward

## **8:30 a.m. Service**

Assisting Minister: Kris Stewart

Lectors: April Armstrong, Mary Lou Nierzwicki

Crucifer: David Ellies

Ushers: Susan Kinzer, Spencer Anspach

Communion Steward: Ian Bensberg

Greeters: Lynn & Ute Coyne

Council Coordinator: Lynn Coyne

## **11 a.m. Service**

Assisting Minister: Amanda Ghaffarian

Lectors: Chris Ogan, Sharon Fawbush

Crucifer: Joseph Arnold

Acolyte: Lucy Meier

Ushers: Dean Arnold, Arno Risner, Ila Risner

Communion Steward: Barb Unger

Greeters: Brock DeMark &

Savannah Hadley-DeMark

Council Coordinator: Dean Arnold

# ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3800 East Third Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401  
Office Hours 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: (812) 332-5252  
[stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org)

*Partners in ministry with*  
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Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,  
Izabal, Guatemala

*In covenant with*  
**Lutheran Campus Ministry  
at Indiana University**  
Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian,  
Campus Pastor  
[lutheran@iu.edu](mailto:lutheran@iu.edu)  
Phone: (812) 333-2474  
[lcmiu.org](http://lcmiu.org)

Rev. Adrienne Meier  
Senior Pastor  
[pastor@stlconline.org](mailto:pastor@stlconline.org)

Rev. Lecia Beck  
Pastor of Youth and Christian Nurture  
[christiannurture@stlconline.org](mailto:christiannurture@stlconline.org)

Erica Whichello  
Parish Administrator  
[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

Matthew Benkert  
Director of Music and Organist  
[directorofmusic@stlconline.org](mailto:directorofmusic@stlconline.org)

Ben Wegner  
Adult Choir Director  
[choir@stlconline.org](mailto:choir@stlconline.org)

Melissa de Graaf  
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU  
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,  
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**