



*Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about “**Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.**”*

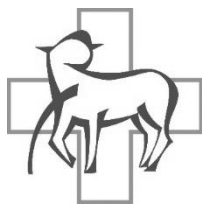
*If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **10:30a.m. service** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.*

HOLY CROSS DAY

September 14, 2025

Today in Worship

- The importance of this day is reflected in the many Lutheran churches named in honor of the holy cross. However, Holy Cross Day is not another Good Friday. This is the exaltation of the holy cross—the day on which we focus not on the cost our Lord paid upon the cross but how that cross is His triumph in the work of our redemption. All of this comes at a time in which the activity of the parish ramps up for the fall season. In AD 355, Constantine built a church on what was thought to be the site of Jesus’ tomb. During construction, a piece of that actual cross was believed to have been found. While the focus is not on a relic, the day celebrates the mighty work of God in Christ, whose cross has become the symbol of His triumph and our redemption.
- God’s Grace to you as you come to the Lord’s house for worship this day.



Ring of the Bells

Announcements (10:30am Service)

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #532

"The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns"

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

P O Lord, my God, I cry to You for help.

C Heal and restore me, O Lord.

P Most holy and merciful Father,

C like sheep, O Lord, we have strayed and wandered from You. We have sinned against You and one another. We have done the evil You forbid, and we have not done the good You desire. There is no health in us. O merciful and divine Shepherd, cover our sins with Your forgiveness, clothe us with Your perfect righteousness, and preserve us in this faith and fear, that we may be kept to the day when Your Son comes to judge all people. Have mercy, O Lord, and fulfill Your Word to us in Christ, our Savior. 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.



Psalm 40:1-11



P I waited patiently | for the Lord; *

C he inclined to me and | heard my cry.

P He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the | miry bog, *

C and set my feet upon a rock, making my | steps secure.

P He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise | to our God. *

C Many will see and fear, and put their trust | in the Lord.

P Blessed is the man who makes the | Lord his trust, *

C who does not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray af- | ter a lie!

P You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds
and your thoughts toward us; none can com- | pare with you! *

C I will proclaim and tell of them,
yet they are more than | can be told.

P In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted,
but you have given me an | open ear. *

C Burnt offering and sin offering you have | not required.

P Then I said, "Behold, | I have come; *

C in the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

P I delight to do your will, | O my God; *

C your law is with- | in my heart."

P I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congre - | gation; *

C behold, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, | O Lord.

P I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your sal- | vation; *

C **I have not concealed your steadfast love and your
faithfulness from the great conger- | gation.**

P As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain
your mer- | cy from me; *

C **your steadfast love and your faithfulness
will ever pre- | serve me!**

C **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son ***
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Lutheran Service Book #560

"Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed"

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

"Moses raised up a serpent on a pole that those who see it might live."

L The Old Testament Reading for Holy Cross Day is from Numbers, chapter 21.

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why

have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.”

⁶ Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

“The cross is the wisdom and power of God.”

L The Epistle Reading is from 1st Corinthians, chapter one.

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Galatians 6:14

P Alleluia. Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

C **by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 12:20-33

"Jesus said, 'When I am lifted up, I . . . will draw all people to Myself.'"

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 12th chapter.

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

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Apostles Creed *8:00am service*

The Nicene Creed *10:30am service*

Message for Children from God's Word

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #837

"Lift High the Cross"

Sermon

Offertory ~ "Create in Me"

Lutheran Service Book #192-193

Offering

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" – John 12:32



We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. As the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord's Word this morning.

10:30am Service

Profession of Faith

Jim & Phyllis Keck

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Responses after each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Him, with Him and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

(10:30 a.m. Services continue page 10 of the Worship Folder.)

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8:00 a.m. Service

Lord's Prayer

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 Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, when You were lifted up on the cross, the entire world experienced birth pains as the cosmos was rocked as Your death gave birth to a new creation. Focus our eyes on Your holy cross that we see it as a tree of life preparing us for Your final coming in judgment as the Son of Man; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Greeting of Peace & Announcements

Closing Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book #427
"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

This concludes the 8:00 a.m. Service

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Service of the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, **any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.**

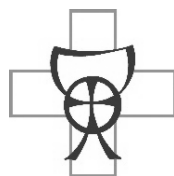
Preface *sung*

LSB p. 194

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should...

... evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

LSB p. 195

Lord's Prayer *Spoken*

LSB p. 196

The Words of our Lord *Spoken*

LSB p. 197

Pax Domini *"The Peace of Our Lord"*

LSB p. 197

Agnus Dei *"Lamb of God"*

LSB p. 198

Distribution Hymns

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LSB # 425

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

LSB # 783

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

LSB # 606

Nunc Dimittis *“Song of Simeon”*

LSB p. 199-200

Thanksgiving

LSB p. 200

The Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, when You were lifted up on the cross, the entire world experienced birth pains as the cosmos was rocked as Your death gave birth to a new creation. Focus our eyes on Your holy cross that we see it as a tree of life preparing us for Your final coming in judgment as the Son of Man; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

Greeting of Peace

Closing Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book #427
“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

Formula of Concord Reading Plan

September – Week 2 – The Week of Sept. 14

Topic this Month: Christ's Descent into Hell

Read:

- Large Catechism, Part II, Article II (p. 401-402)

