

Grace Lutheran Church



HOLY CROSS DAY
September 14, 2025

Service Notes—Holy Cross Day

Welcome Visitors

Service usually lasts 70 to 80 minutes. We invite you to worship with us again soon and to make Grace your church home. Please sign Connection Cards and welcome!

Children

Children of all ages are welcome in worship services and will learn to participate at a very young age if present. A nursery is available if a part-of-the-service nursery stay might be helpful. Activity bags for children aged 8 and younger are available near the doors to the sanctuary. Ask an usher for one if you're not sure where they are.

Preparing for Worship | Intro to Pastor's Sermon

Holy Cross Day is observed on the day on which Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, believed she had found the actual cross upon which Jesus died and the mound upon which the cross was raised outside the Jerusalem city wall, as well as the day some years later on which a chapel commemorating that spot was dedicated. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was built there after pagan temples (which ironically reserved the spot and memory for the locals) were removed. As with most legends, it is difficult to know where the truth ends and the fables of men begin.

Serving the Assembly

Preacher	Pastor Dehning
Organist	Cindy Gribble
Director of Music	Sarah Kavanagh
Musicians	(8 a.m.)
.....	(10:30 a.m.) Grace Choir
Elders	(8 a.m.) Eric Hahm& James Krotz
.....	(10:30 a.m.) Jim Bellin & Rich Hines
Altar Guild	(8 a.m.) Kerri Ladeburg
.....	(10:30 a.m.) Lee Bellin
Bread Baker	Angela Dimmick
Reader	(8 a.m.) Ronald Logan, (10:30 a.m.) Brad Smith

Gathering

Prelude

“The Wonderful Cross” hymn medley arr. Austin Lovelace/Jan Sanborn

Welcome

Gathering Song

“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed” | LSB 560

Stand

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 to me, a poor, sinful being.

- P** Upon this 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.

Face the cross for the procession.

Hymn of Praise

“Now the Feast and Celebration” | ELW 167

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of
God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

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Greeting 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.

Sit

Word

Children's Word

First Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

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. 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.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 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. 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.” 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

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. 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 scribe? 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

Congregation:

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

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

Gospel

John 12:20–33

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 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. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 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.

“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. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow” | *LSB* 428

(Choir sings v.1; congregation sings 2-4)

Stand

Apostles’ Creed

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven**

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The assembly responds to each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Sit

Meal

Offering

“Voluntary on ‘Kingsfold’” by John Stallsmith (8 a.m.)

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” arr. Randy Kartchner (10:30 a.m.)

Stand

Offertory

“Create in Me” | *LSB 192*





The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that

is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

**☩ 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.**

☐ In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own word, we receive His testament:

☐ 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.”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 * you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world:
 fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 peace:
 love:

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

Holy Communion is celebrated every week at Grace in the confidence of receiving from our Lord all that He promises. In Holy Communion, we eat and drink His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and to

strengthen our union with Christ and with one another. With such celebration goes the pastoral concern that all the baptized trust Christ's words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. Because Holy Communion is a confession of faith, worshippers who are in doubt or hold a differing confession of faith and yet desire to receive Holy Communion are encouraged to speak with the pastor.

Distribution Hymns

LSB 578 | “Thy Strong Word”

ELW 857 | “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (sing twice)

Verse

*Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us*

CCLI Song # 117947
Rick Founds
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Chorus

*You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high*

CWP 40B | “I Waited, Waited for the Lord”

*1. I waited, waited for the Lord
He turned and heard my plea.
And from the pit, the mire, the clay
He fin'ly lifted me.
High on a cliff he set my feet,
Gave me a base to stand,
A new song put upon my lips
To make his praises grand.*

*3. If only I could tell your deeds,
But who can count them all?
You did not ask for sacrifice,
But ears to hear your call.
Since offerings you did not require,
I stated, on my part:
“I will come to do your will, my god;
Your law is in my heart.”.*

*2. Thus many souls will fear the Lord
And look to him for aid.
How blessed are all who trust in him,
Not gods their hands have made.
So many wonders, Lord my god,
And marvels you have done!
What loving plans you made for us!
Who can compare? Not one.*

*4. I tell your gathered people, Lord,
What mercy you bestow,
Nor do I ever seal my lips,
As you my Lord, well know.
I do not hide within my heart
Your holy righteousness,
But speak aloud your saving help,
Your perfect faithfulness.*

*5. Your constant care, your steadfast love
I ever will reveal,
And from the great assembly, Lord,
Your truth will not conceal.
Do not hold your mercy, Lord
For I can hardly see;
So many sins oppress my soul-
My heart is failing me.*

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LSB 702 | “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

LSB 423 | “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

Stand

Prayer after Communion

LSB 212

P 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.

Sending

Blessing

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Thy Strong Word” arr. Robert Powell

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book

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About Grace Lutheran Church

Established in 1975, Grace Lutheran Church has faithfully served our community, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and extending a hand of fellowship and service to all.

Our Vision

Inviting Community in Christ

Our Mission

Inviting all people to grow in faith toward God and in love toward one another.

Stay Connected

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