



St. John's of Hatboro

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Cross Sunday

September 14, 2025

The Good News for Today: Christ became nothing so that we might become a new creation.

Thank you for worshiping with us at St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

Please fill out your yellow attendance card and place it in the offering plate when we collect the offering later in the service.

Gathering Music

STAND

Hymn: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing – ELW 807 (Red Book)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove. | 3 | Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal
it;
seal it for thy courts above. |
| 2 | Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood. | | |

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

Welcome & Greeting

Welcome to St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

SIT

The Readings

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

¹¹ At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, ¹² a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

²² “For my people are foolish;
they do not know me;
they are stupid children;
they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil
but do not know how to do good.”

²³ I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos,
and to the heavens, and they had no light.
²⁴ I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.
²⁵ I looked, and there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.
²⁶ I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

²⁷ For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation, yet I will not make a full end.

²⁸ Because of this the earth shall mourn
and the heavens above grow black,
for I have spoken; I have purposed;
I have not relented, nor will I turn back.

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 14

¹ Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”
They are corrupt, every deed is vile; there is no one who does any good.

² **The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all,
to see if there is anyone who is wise, who seeks after God.**

³ They have all proved faithless; all alike have turned bad;
there is none who does good; no, not one.

⁴ **Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers
who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon the Lord?**

⁵ See how they tremble with fear,
because God is in the company of the righteous.

⁶ **Your aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted,
but the Lord is their refuge.**

⁷ Oh, that Israel’s deliverance would come out of Zion!
When the Lord restores the fortunes of the people, Jacob will rejoice and Israel will be glad.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

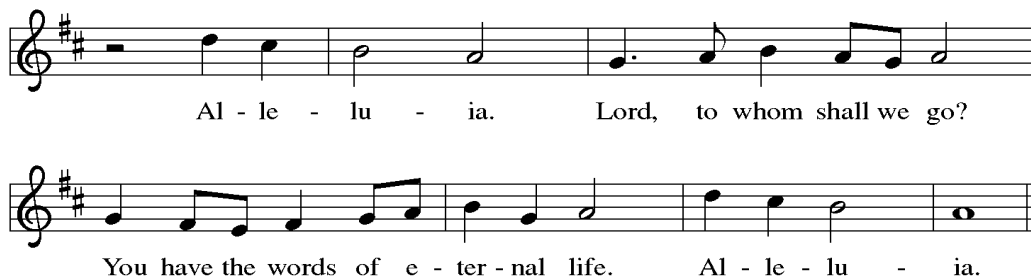
¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

STAND

Gospel Acclamation:



John 3:13-17

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “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.

¹⁷ “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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

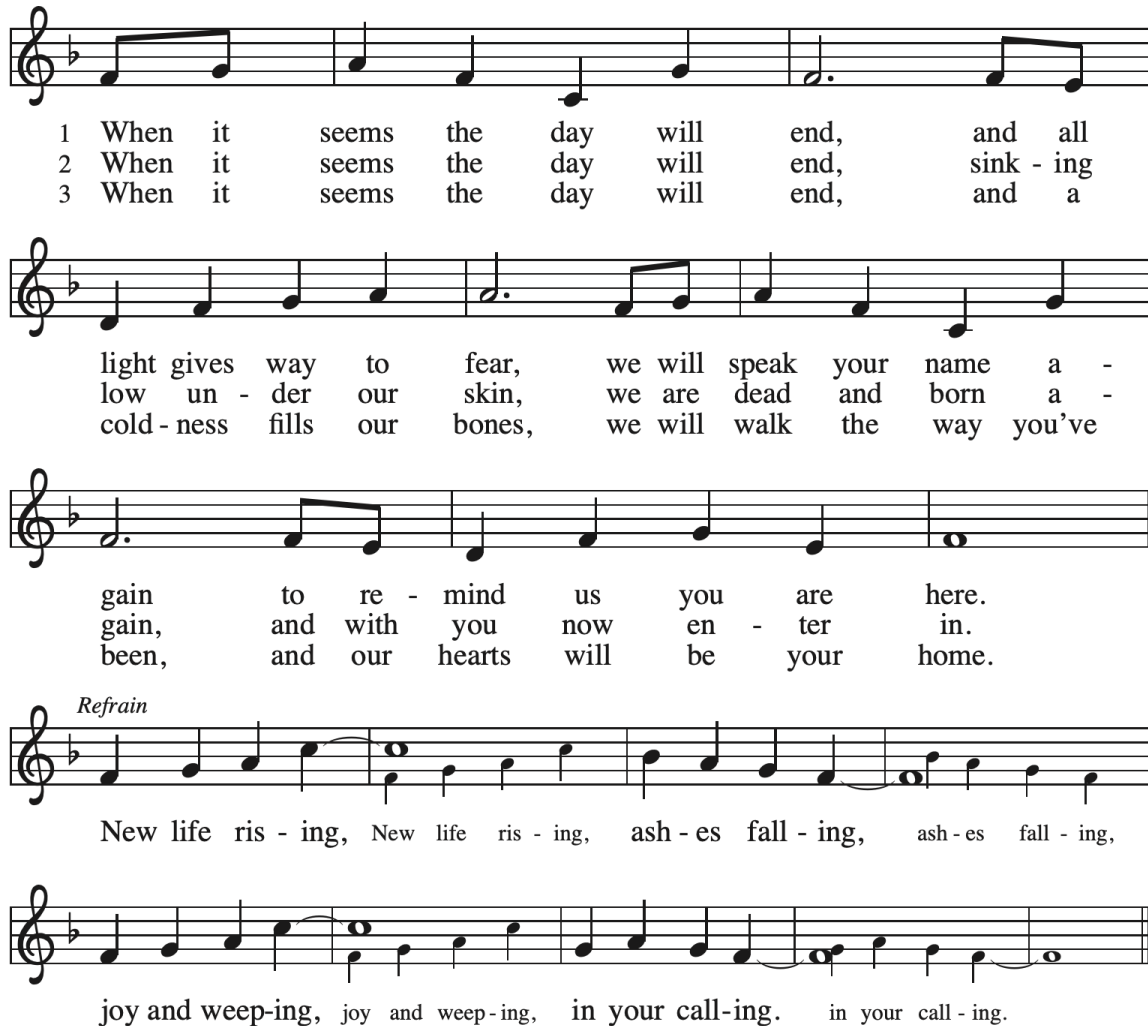
Praise to you, O Christ.

SIT

Sermon – “Welcome to the Human Race”– Pastor Bo Bannister

STAND

Hymn: When It Seems the Day Will End – ACS 1034



1 When it seems the day will end, and all
2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing
3 When it seems the day will end, and a

light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -
low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -
cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've

gain to re - mind us you are here.
gain, and with you now en - ter in.
been, and our hearts will be your home.

Refrain

New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,
joy and weep-ing, joy and weep-ing, in your call-ing. in your call - ing.

Text: Justin Rimbo, b. 1980
Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

The Apostles' Creed

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

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

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

SIT

Announcements

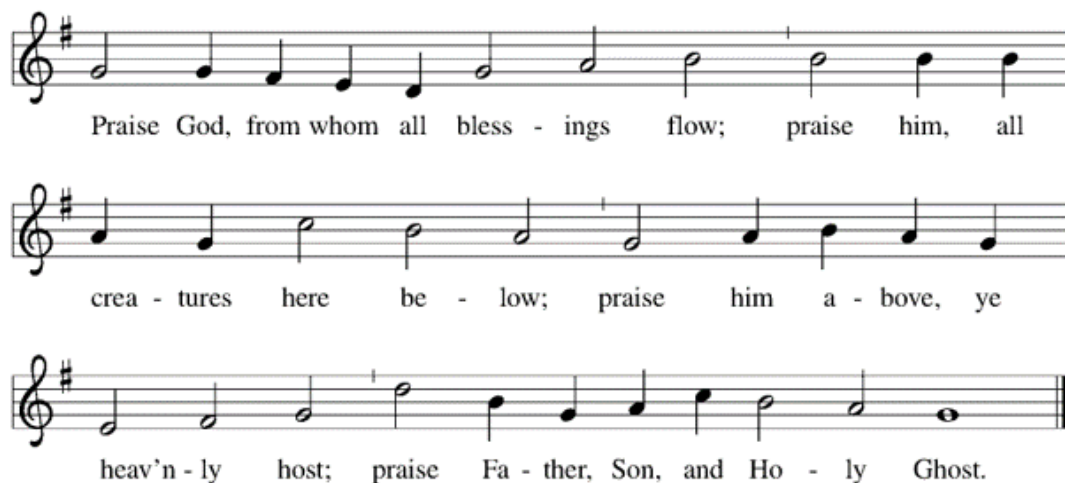
Printed copies of our weekly announcements are available at the usher's stand in the Narthex, and monthly newsletters are on the Hospitality Table. Please include your email address on your yellow attendance card to receive announcements electronically.

Blessing for Virtual Worshipers

Offering

STAND

Offertory Hymn: Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow
(ELW 885 / Red Book)



Offering Prayer

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.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

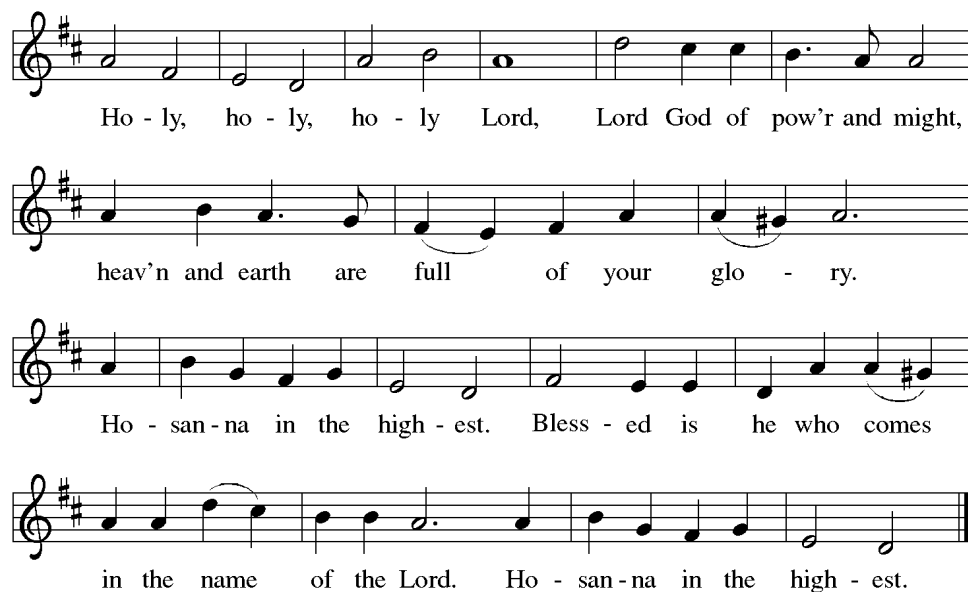
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



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. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, God, for the great day of salvation prepared from the beginning, when Christ, though rejected on earth, will be lauded as Lord of all. We bless you for Christ who carried sin's destructive powers to the cross that all might be set free. Through Christ you inspire in us the hope that forces of darkness will be scattered, and that you are making all things new.

Just as prophets long before Christ spoke of the sufferings that would be his, so Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and

gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we reenact your Word of Love dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May the fire of your love animate our flesh. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

The 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.

SIT

Invitation to Communion

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

Distribution of the Elements

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

STAND

Post-Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you keep you in his Grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Blessing

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 forever.

Amen.

Hymn: Lift High the Cross – ELW 660 (Red Book)

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God. *Refrain*
2. All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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