

**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**



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Holy Cross Day  
Sunday, September 14, 2025, 9:30 a.m.  
Rev. Stephanie White**

# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

Holy Cross Day

Sunday, September 14, 2025

*Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.*

Key to hymnals in the pews:

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red); page numbers are in front, hymns in back

WOV = With One Voice (blue); page numbers are in front, hymns in back

STS = Spirit Touching Spirit (grey)

Hymnals we do not have in the pews but use their resources in our bulletins:

ACS = All Creation Sings (purple; the new hymnal supplement of the ELCA)

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship (green)

TFF = This Far by Faith

SBH = Service Book and Hymnal (1958)

\* = Please rise

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Gathering Hymn**

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

ELW #608

*All turn and face the processional cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.*

# Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

## *Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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. Those who wish to may kneel.*

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.**

*Water is poured into the baptismal font..*


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.**

## \*Sharing the Peace

## God Welcomes All

ACS #978

Sing 4 times; share a sign of the peace with each other while singing.



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;



God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.

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## \*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

**First Reading:** *While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

## Exodus 32:7-14

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” <sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” <sup>14</sup> And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm 98:1-4

- <sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
- <sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

**Second Reading:** *The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

1 Timothy 1:12-17

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*  
sing twice

ELW #172

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes on the staves.



Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954  
 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

**Gospel:** After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

**\*Gospel:** John 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to St. John...

**Glory 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

*Lost & Found*

Rev. Stephanie White

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

ELW #779



## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## **\*Apostles' Creed**

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.

## Offering

*We welcome you to Redeemer Lutheran Church this day! Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering box before the service or at this time. As our tithes and offerings are being collected, **please take a moment to sign the red Friendship Pad.***

## **\*Offertory**

*Take Me Lord*  
sing twice

STS #41

Take me, Lord, I give to you,  
everything and all I do!  
My love, my life, is my offering  
that I give to you.

## 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.

### **\*Prayers of the People**

...God of grace,  
receive our prayer.

### **\*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



## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **\*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.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

*Lift High the Cross*

ELW #660

*All face the processional cross as it is carried from the sanctuary.*

Postlude

**ASSISTING IN MINISTRY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

Presiding: Rev. Stephanie White

Ushers: Deb Jacobson and Jean Helle

Acolyte:

Lector: Grant Nelson

Communion Assistants:

Serving at the Altar: Renae Dalen

Musicians: Paula Adamson, Dean Dalen, and Scott Pream

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# 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 - 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

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## **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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# *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

Tamara Vaughan, Darren Bakke, Shawn Groven, Mason Laidley, Dena & Mike Halsa Family, Joyce White, Sandy Parker Family, Dave Thompson, Sandra Sunsdahl, Cindy Hughes, Jim Potucek, Rick Harbott, Sara LaFayette Valentine, Michelle Kasprick, Neil Erickson, Shari Safranski, Bob and Barb Horien, Rick and Tami Hanson, Rose Teie, and Fern Melbye.

**Financial stewardship**  
**2025 Budget**  
**\$329,106.00**  
**Needed monthly**  
**\$27,425.50**  
**Needed Weekly**  
**\$6,328.96**

**Quarterly statements** are available upon request; please contact Marit at the church office.

**Week Ending August 31, 2025**  
**\$4,090.58**  
**Weekly Shortage/Overage**  
**(\$2,238.38)**

**Altar flowers are given by**  
**June Johnson**  
**On loving memory of**  
**Brad Johnson.**  
**Blessed is his memory.**

**On-line giving has been changed** from Vanco to Subsplash. If you still need to switch to Subsplash, please do so as soon as possible. If you are having problems, please contact Marit Martell.



**Volunteers are needed to read, usher and serve communion.** If you can help out in any of these roles, please fill out a volunteer sheet found in the Narthex. Thank you for sharing your time and talents.

**Registration forms for Ryme Tyme Tykes, JAM(Jesus and Me) K-5<sup>th</sup> grade and Confirmation** are available in the Narthex.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Students** – Confirmation pictures are scheduled for Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm.

**Sign up sheet for Meals on Wheels** is in the Narthex. Our week to serve is October 6-10. Thanks to all who volunteer their time for this opportunity.

**The 35<sup>th</sup> annual HIA Hospice Spaghetti Dinner** will be held on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

**Attention Women of the ELCA** – mark the following dates on your calendars.

**September 19 & 20** – NWMN Synodical Women's Organization presents their 37<sup>th</sup> annual convention. WELCA of Redeemer will pay for the first 4 women who want to attend. There are forms on the table in the Narthex as well.

**October 4** – The Fall Gathering of the Conference 2 WELCA NWMN Synod will be held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Middle River. This year's theme is "The Good Samaritan" Registration fee is \$10.00.

**Violence Intervention Project will be hosting a "Tea on DV"** a community Tea outreach event on Domestic Violence at Redeemer Lutheran church on 09/21/25. The event starts at 1pm and the speaker is Tim Denney. Tim is the NW Regional Co-coordinator for the Northern MN Suicide Prevention Initiative, and the Mental Health Lead for NW Health Services Coalition.

**The Road Trip is Back—With New Dates!** 🚗

We're hitting the road again this October, and we can't wait to see you! Bishop Bill and synod staff are traveling across Northwestern Minnesota for conversation, connection, and encouragement.

**New Date & Location:**

- **October 14** – 12 PM | *Trinity, Detroit Lakes* · 6 PM | *Redeemer, Thief River Falls*

Come join us at a stop near you for stories, sharing, and a chance to be part of what God is doing across our synod.

## **REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

1300 Nora St. E.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Phone: (218) 681-3390  
Web: [www.redeemertf.org](http://www.redeemertf.org)  
Email: [redeemer@gvtel.com](mailto:redeemer@gvtel.com)

Rev. Stephanie White, *pastor*  
Dianne Stroh, *administrative assistant*  
Marit Knutson, *financial secretary*

Reid Froiland, *organist/liturgist/choir director*  
Chris Cuppett, *cantor*  
Paula Adamson, Greg Dally, and Dean Dalen,



Mike Lundgren, *custodian*  
Jan Nordin, *council president*

*staff musicians*  
Dave Ulrich, *videographer*





**Jesus said "Drop everything and follow me!"**



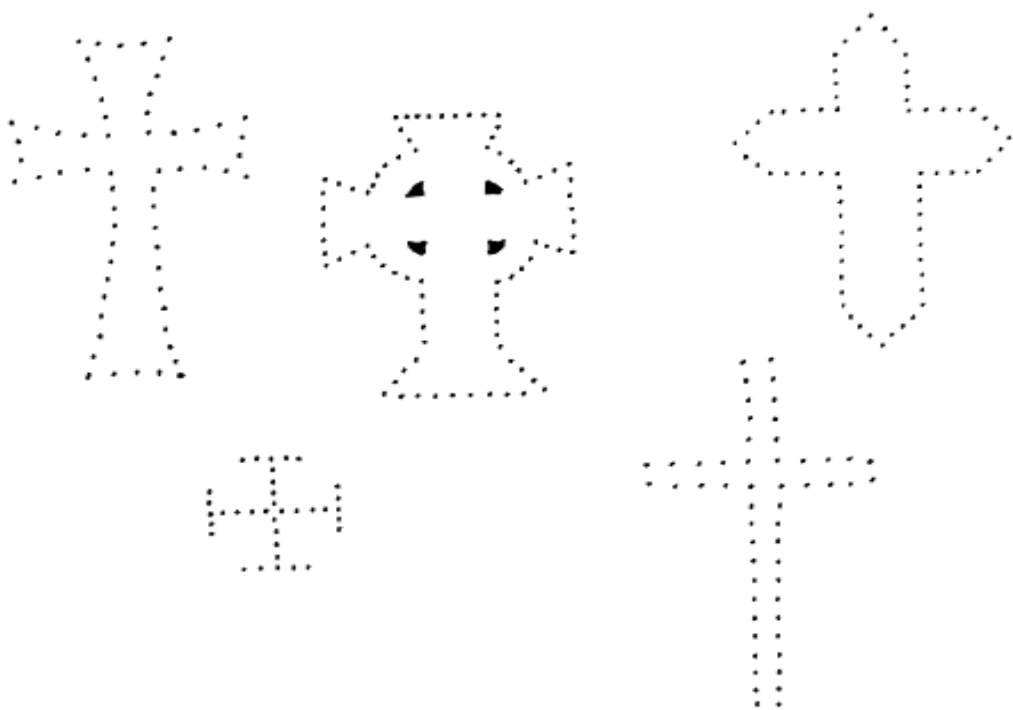
# kids Celebrate

Lectionary 24



## gather

**Welcome to worship.** Holy Cross Day comes on September 14. The cross reminds us of Jesus. Look around your worship space and notice the crosses. Where are they? Do they all look the same?



**Trace the dotted lines to uncover different kinds of crosses. Do you have a cross at home? What does it look like?**



## God's amazing forgiveness!

God always forgives us and loves us no matter what.

Find the following phrases in the word search and circle them. What shape do you find?

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

ITS OK

GOD LOVES YOU

AMAZING FORGIVENESS

JESUS LOVES YOU

I FORGIVE YOU

K I K C K E S E V E N T Y T I M E S S E V E N  
I T S O K F S F D J K L S R K L E A L Z C V N  
F J K E I R C E L E K K E S L C K V I E N N F  
O K K C O Z K B J S N E K W U C L E M V L P G  
R J V K E H V K K U R L W P E L D K B N E K O  
G K W O E L O E K S L E E K R O W K E M I Z D  
I Z K U I O K C O L W L R A L W Q V N N M D L  
V A M A Z I N G F O R G I V E N E S S O L E O  
E E K L K R K C K V K K S L E K O C K R K E V  
Y K V K R O P P W E Q V M N T L S L E K R L E  
O P K E R J C U L S R C L B K E K T H E K R S  
U O Q P E L L K R Y L V K E K R M R J E Y S Y  
D P A L I E J S M O Y C K V L N E K L D L X O  
C M R I O P N E N U K R K L K N W R J E L K U



*Thank you, God, for your amazing forgiveness. Help me forgive others. Amen*

**this week**

Make a cross by tying two sticks together with your favorite colors of ribbon.