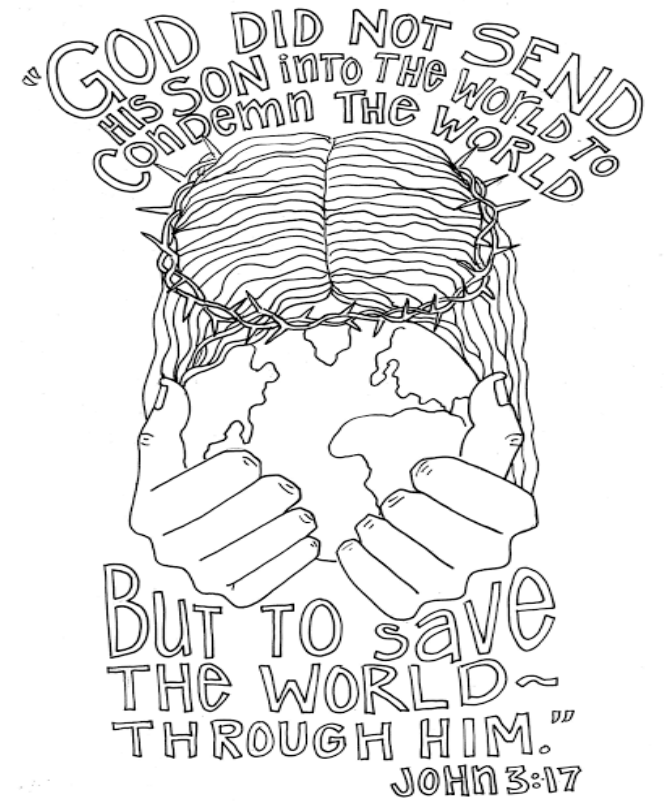




Holy Cross Day Sunday

Sunday, September 13, 2026

9:00 am

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Allan Treichel
Lector	Marie Zahn
Offering Bearer	Maggie Hernandez
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vanessa Petrakos

Parish Calendar: 9/6/2026

Sunday 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist
Monday 6:00-8:00 pm AA Meeting in Nursery
Tuesday 6:00-8:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Nursery
Wednesday 6:00-8:00 pm AA Meeting in Nursery
Thursday 6:00 Any Given Table in hall
Friday 6:30-8:30pm GOD AA Meeting in hall
Saturday 11:00am-12:00pm NCMBC Bible Study hall
3:00 – 5:00pm AA Meeting in Hall
6:00-8:00pm CA Meeting in Hall

Sunday 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist

Office Hours

Monday Office Closed
Tuesday 10:00-3:00pm
Wednesday 10:00-3:00pm
Thursday 10:00-3:00pm
Friday 10:00-12:00pm
Saturday Office Closed
Sunday 8:00 10:30 am

216-662-0370

Martin@covenantmaplehts.org
revandreamcdonough@gmail.com

Holy Cross Day Sunday – September 13 , 2026

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

*Confession & Forgiveness

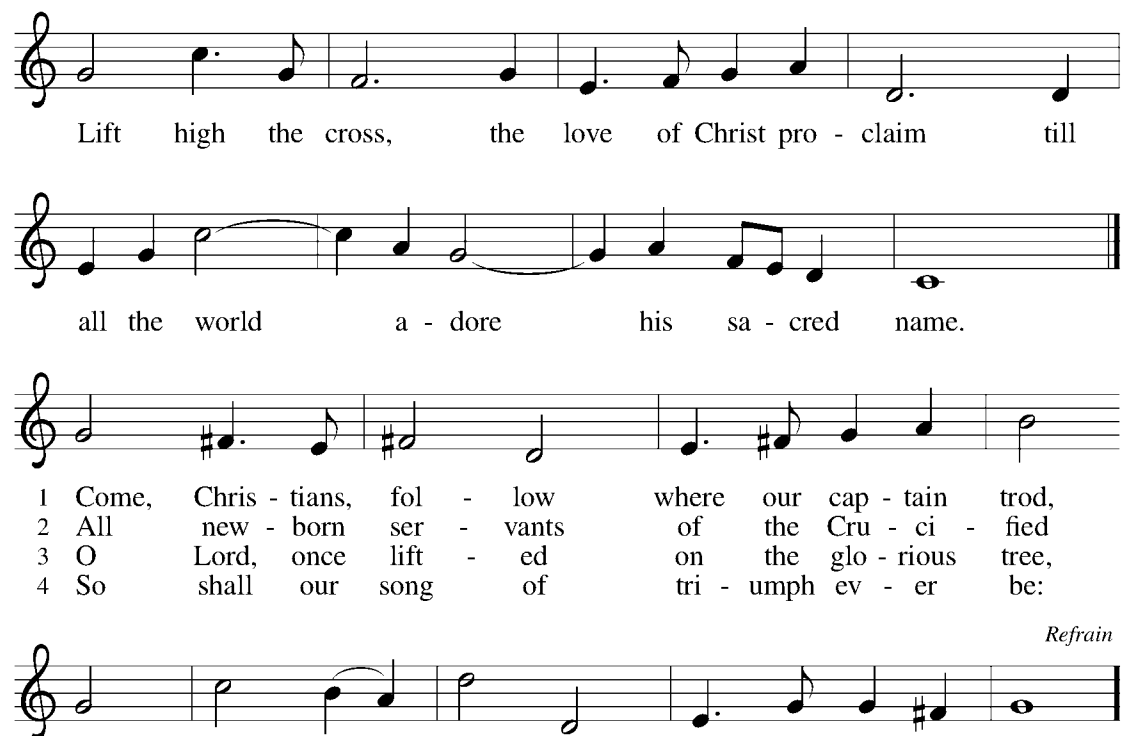
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn: Lift High The Cross ELW # 660



Musical notation for the hymn 'Lift High The Cross' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: 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.
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***Greeting:** 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.**

*Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:
Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Dan Fleming, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Marge (Shriver) Katarzynski, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Jennifer Lewane, Phyllis Nemeth, Patti Novak, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Claude, Starks, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Verl Williamson, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 9/6/2026: \$ 2407.00

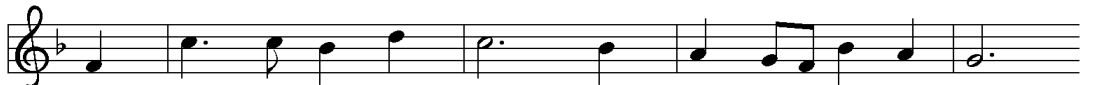
***Post Communion Prayer**

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

***Blessing**

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. Amen. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn: Oh Praise the Gracious Power ELW #651**



1

Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear

2

Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds

3

Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:

and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:

ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:

Refrain

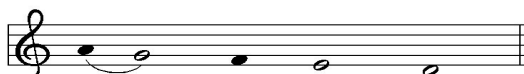


We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

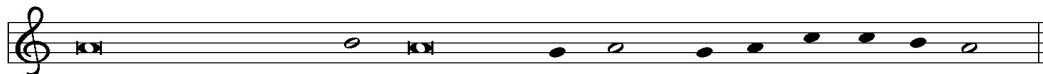
***Kyrie**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



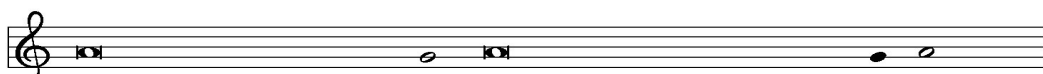
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



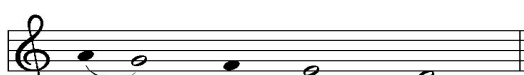
Lord, have mer - cy.



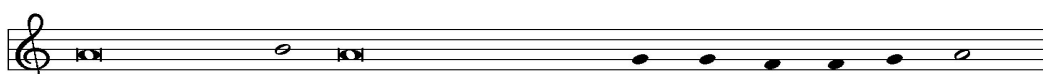
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



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**

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***The Lord's Prayer**
Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
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.

Communion Hymn

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.

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

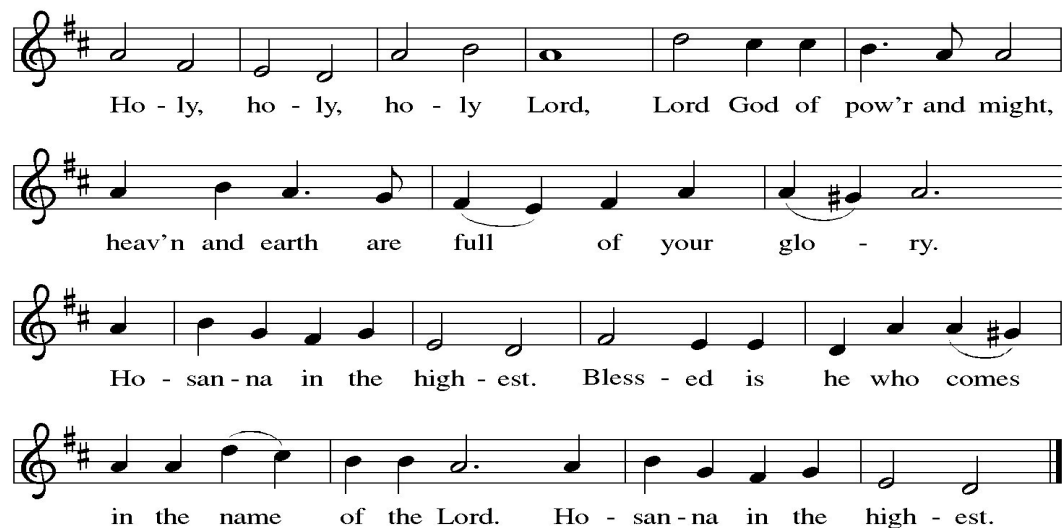
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In him you have received us as your children, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us your Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



*Prayer of the Day

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**

Children's Moment

First Reading: Numbers 21:4b-9

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] **4b** but the people became discouraged on the way. **5** 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." **6** Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. **7** 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. **8** 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." **9** 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98:1-4

- 1 Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- 2 **O LORD, you have made | known your victory,**
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the na-
tions. R
- 3 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.
- 4 **Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;**
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

18 The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are per-
ishing, 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 scholar? 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, God decided, through the foolishness of the
proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews ask for signs and
Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stum-
bling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who
are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the
wisdom of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Offertory Hymn: Voices Raised to You ELW # 845**



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

***Offertory Prayer**

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundant-
ly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in
love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

by fire or flood, windstorm, or earthquake. Shelter your whole creation from harm. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the nations and their leaders. Bring an end to warfare, violence, and injustice. Teach us to live in peace with one another. Lift up those who live under oppression. Watch over those who flee their homes in search of safety and freedom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those in need. For those yearning for meaning and purpose. For those who lack stable employment or safe housing. For those who grieve, and for those who are ill. Heal their wounds and comfort them in their distress. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For this assembly. For Sunday school teachers and preschool directors. For students and teachers in public and private schools. Fill us all with zeal for learning. Energize us to give ourselves away in love for our neighbors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

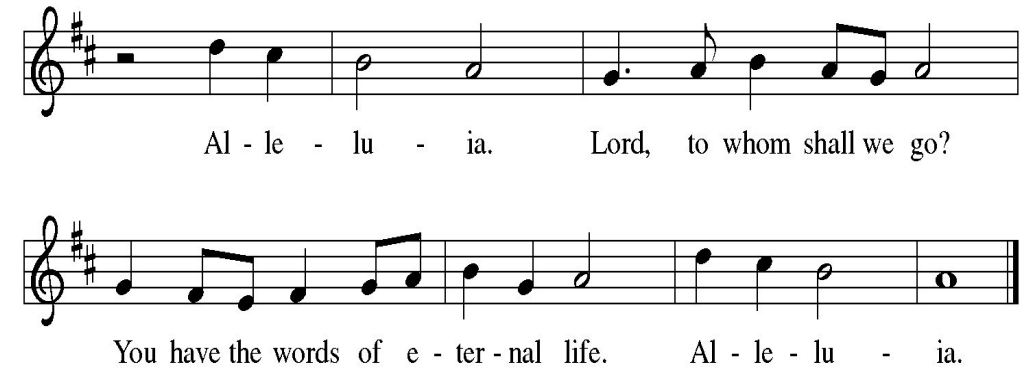
With thanksgiving, we remember Helena, the mother of Constantine, and all who have gone before us in faith. Bring us with them through the promise of the holy cross into the hope and joy of the resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you**

***Gospel Acclamation**



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

The holy gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] **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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
Sermon

***Hymn of the Day: Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross**

ELW # 335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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.

Prayers of the People

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we
pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the church. For bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized.
For chaplains, missionaries, and those who serve in specialized
settings. Guide us in the way of the cross, and lead us in paths of
faithful service. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
For the world. For oceans and lakes, rivers and wetlands. For trees
and mountains, parks and wildlife refuges. Restore places damaged