

CROSSROADS

Atonement Lutheran Church
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey



The good news is...together, the impossible is possible

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent



**CROSSROADS
PARISH**



**Proud to be a Reconciling
In Christ Community**

Three Churches, One Big Community In Faith. All Are Welcome



**ATONEMENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
New Brighton, MN



**CROSS OF GLORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Mounds View, MN



**IGLESIA LUTERANA
CRISTO REY**
Crossroads Parish

Atonement Lutheran Church

1980 Silver Lake Road NW
New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-2240
AtonementNB.org
Worship at 10:45am

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

5472 Adams Street
Mounds View, MN 55112
763-784-2528
CrossofGloryMV.org
Worship at 8:30am

Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey

Pastora Ana Becerra
1980 Silver Lake Rd NW
New Brighton, MN 55112
763-225-7079
Servicio en Español al mediodía

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Cassie Nault
Pastora Ana Becerra
Ivan Konev – Cross of Glory Accompanist
Matt Verkuilen/ Jon Thomalla – Audio/Visual
Marilyn Goldsworthy - Sunday School
Maani Grace – Crossroads Music Coordinator

Deacon Brad Mills
Dawn Saros-Kirk – Office Administrator
Debora Holmes – Atonement Accompanist
Tony Houfek/Alice Sponholz – Audio/Visual
Dani Gow – Youth Group

	8:30	10:45
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Dawn Saros-Kirk	Steve Klaers
LECTOR	Sue Pulvermacher-Alt	Andrea Weatherly
USHER/ACOLYTE	Paula Reed	Lindsey Fabian
GREETER	Linda Radtke	Gwen & Kevin Blomseth
COMMUNION SETUP/CLEANUP	Roberta Olson	Andrea Weatherly
COMMUNION SERVERS	Leslie Bjork, Gretchen Davis	Isaac Weatherly, Alice Sponholz
COUNTERS	Bob Reed, Patsy Thorsbakken	Bruce Jahnke, Royce King

We acknowledge that we gather as Atonement and Cross of Glory Lutheran Churches on the traditional land of the Wahpekute, a band of the Dakota and one of the seven groups of Oceti Sakowin, translated as “the Seven Councils Fire”, also referred to as the Great Sioux Nation as well as Anishinaabe people and other indigenous nations who have called this land home. We further acknowledge that both the State of Minnesota and the United States Government carried out genocide, ethnic cleansing, forced removal and broken promises against indigenous people as a way to acquire land. This calls us to commit to learning how to be better stewards of the land and to support indigenous communities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

(ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship cranberry hymnal; ACS = All Creation Sings)

TRINITY CHIMES

The singing bowl rings out 3 times to remind us we are gathered in the name of the Triune God.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

If you need good news,

All: settle into this space.

We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,

All: then trust us when we say,

there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,

All: then you're in luck!

We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

All: then know that this is God's house.

This is the good news of the gospel.

All: God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Let us worship our with-us God!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends, we are like the disciples. The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away. We often do the same. Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part. That is why we need the Prayer of Confession. For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference. So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling. Join me in prayer:

All: Holy God, with you the impossible is possible. 5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope. With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that. We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done. We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd. We forget that you are always with us. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved. The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

All: today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God. We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone. What good, good news. Amen!

OPENING HYMN

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” vv. 1-3

ELW 338

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All: Holy God, we could press our ear to the page, hoping to hear you more clearly. We could silence all the alarms and notifications, hoping to catch a murmur of your voice. We could still our beating hearts, and still we might miss your voice. So today we pray, open up space in our hearts, in our spirits, in our minds, to feel your presence among us. With you, anything is possible. We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

Please be seated.

“This Little Light of Mine” v. 1

ELW 677

Children, please come forward while we sing.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Deacon Brad Mills

“This Little Light of Mine” v. 2

As the children return to their families, the lector comes forward.

READING: EPHESIANS 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and^[a] in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

page 205 ELW

GOSPEL: Mark 6:32-44

The Holy gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may

go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.”³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass.⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all.⁴² And all ate and were filled,⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cassie Nault

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace” vv. 1-5

ELW 779

CREED

L: Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith together.

All: I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter
and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love
and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

I have seen it alive in the world.

**And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,**

**I remember the one who
welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.**

**I remember the one who
cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.**

**I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Calling and equipping God...

REMINDER OF GOD'S PEACE – *During cold & flu season, we refrain from sharing a sign of peace.*

L: May the peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Offertory Music: "Beautiful Things" vv. 1-3

ACS 925

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

page 206 ELW

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

page 207 ELW

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us now pray the Lord's Prayer in whatever language is most familiar.

All: Our Father...

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

During the season of Lent, we receive wafers for communion as the symbol of preparation. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. There is wine which is red in color and white grape juice in the center. At Cross of Glory, communion is received standing or kneeling at the altar. At Atonement, there are baskets at the end of each aisle for empty communion cups.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" vv. 1-3

ELW 608

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" vv. 1-4

ELW 623

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" vv. 1-3

ELW 618

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week at Atonement & Cross of Glory:

Today	8:30 – Worship at Cross of Glory 9:30 – Sunday School/Youth at Cross of Glory 10am – FCC at Atonement LL 10:45 – Worship at Atonement – <i>Prayer Ministers Available</i> Noon – Cristo Rey at Atonement
Monday	8am – Crossroads Bible Study at Atonement 1pm – Kitchen Kutups at Atonement 2pm – Puzzles at Atonement 6pm – Girl Scouts at Atonement 6pm – Atonement Property Committee
Tuesday	6pm – Zumba at Atonement 6:30pm – Councils Meet at Atonement
Wednesday	5:30 – Soup Supper at Cross of Glory 6:30 – Midweek Lenten Worship at Atonement
Thursday	10am – Mary Circle at Atonement 10am – Naomi Circle at Cross of Glory 1pm – Game Day at Atonement 3pm – Marnie Theis Violin Lessons at Cross of Glory 6:30 – An Evening of Chamber Music at Atonement – All are welcome!
Friday	5pm – New Birth at Cross of Glory
Saturday	9am – New Birth at Cross of Glory 9am – Mount of Blessings at Atonement
Sunday	8:30 – Worship at Cross of Glory 9:30 – Sunday School/Youth at Cross of Glory 10am – FCC at Atonement 10:45 – Worship at Atonement <u>Noon – Cristo Rey at Atonement</u>

PLEASE JOIN US at Cross of Glory this Wednesday, March 11 at 5:30pm for soup supper and mid-week Lenten service at 6:30pm. Soup supper sign up is in the narthex.

AN EVENING OF CHAMBER MUSIC – FREE CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT AT ATONEMENT THIS THURSDAY, MARCH 12 at 6:30PM. Miriam Webber, Associate Professor of Music at Bemidji State University, is a fiscal year 2026 recipient of a Creative Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. This activity is also made possible by the voters of Minnesota, through a grant from the Region 2 Arts Council, thanks to a legislative

appropriation from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund. Our Music Coordinator, Maani, was able to coordinate having this free performance for us.

CROSSROADS CAMPING WEEKEND ALL CHURCH TRIP

Who: All ages intergenerational. Outreach event- please invite neighbors, friends, family, etc! Just come during the day if you want to sleep at home!

When: June 26-28th, 2026

Location: Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Campground 7373 Main Street, Centerville, MN 55038

Fee: Vehicle Permits Anoka County required \$30/annual or \$7/day per vehicle entrance. Tent campers no cost! If you want to bring an RV/Motorhome/Camper etc. please reserve your own site.

What: Come join in an all church camping trip! Play at the beach, enjoy the playground, bring/rent a canoe to use at the boat launch, go fishing or use the hiking trails. Bring your bike if you want to ride the Anoka Bike Trails or your golf clubs at nearby Chominox Golf Course. Just come and hang out too if you want a low key relaxing time to sit and read a book. Fun for everyone outdoors. Full schedule will be posted before the trip.

Worship: We will have an evening time around the campfire to discuss highs and lows, sing songs with guitars, and pray together.

Food: We will provide a campfire and you bring your own meals. If you would like to bring a snack to share please do so and s'more fixings will be provided.

Lodging: Tent camping space will be provided if you would like to tent at no cost. We can have up to 60 people tent camp in our group site. Please visit <https://www.anokacountyparks.com/camping> for more information.

CROSSROADS SPRING PLANT SALE – Order your spring plants now and be ready for spring! Ordering is open until 10pm on Monday, April 6. Go to **www.GertensFundraising.com**, enter **Store ID 960**, place your order and enter the name of the church you want the profit to go to. Pick up day will be Wednesday, May 13 from 2pm – 6pm at Cross of Glory. See Dawn if you need help with ordering.

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS is next Sunday, March 15.

CAN YOU HELP? We are really in need of more Sunday morning ministry assistants: Lectors, Worship Assistants, Ushers, Communion Setup/Cleanup, Communion Servers and Counters. Even if we could get 2 new people for each position, it would help with scheduling so much! It's flexible, you can trade with others or let us know when you are unavailable. Please consider volunteering and sign up in the narthex. *Thank you from Becky Redding, Dawn Saros-Kirk and Carol Hoiby.*

EASTER EGG HUNT – Mark your calendars for our Good Friday (April 3) morning Easter Egg Hunt at Cross of Glory at 10am. Volunteers are needed that morning to help assembly treat bags, hide eggs and general help. Just show up at 9am that morning if you can help. Candy donations are needed too.

MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MARCH CAMPAIGN – Every dollar donated in **March** to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf is partially matched by Minnesota FoodShare. This means your gift this month will have a significantly greater impact than at any other time of the year. Your financial donation allows Ralph Reeder

to purchase more for less and maximize the match. Go to <https://www.ralphreederfoodshelf.org/donate> if you are able to donate and together, we can restock our shelves and respond to the growing needs of our neighbors.

PINT-SIZED GATHERING! Join Gather Twin Cities for our social event **Sunday, March 15 at the Minneapolis Cider Company at 7:00pm** for a night of conversation and community. Gather Twin Cities is a Lutheran (ELCA) ministry for those who are hungry for community and connection with other young adults in the metro area. Invite your friends, roommates, neighbors! Gather is a ministry for young adults, which we roughly define as 19-35, though that age range is meant to clarify, never excluded. If you have any questions, email gathertwincities@gmail.com.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SCHEDULE

Soup Supper 5:30; Worship 6:30

MID-WEEK SERVICES

March 11, 18, 25 – Cross of Glory

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – March 29

Maundy Thursday – April 2 – 6:30 at Atonement

Good Friday – April 3 – 6:30 at Cross of Glory

Easter Sunday

7:30 – Sunrise Easter Worship at Cross of Glory

8:30 – Easter Breakfast at Cross of Glory – All are welcome!

10:45 – Easter Worship at Atonement

Artist's Statement for Cover Art

Far More Abundantly *by Lauren Wright Pittman*

Inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21; 11"x14" Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper, with gold leaf detail

I read this Ephesians text alongside the feeding of the five thousand. I placed Jesus at the center of the image,¹² but he did not feed the crowds alone. He asked his disciples to offer what they had. They responded with meager resources, yet those small gifts were enough. Through the lens of Ephesians, if Jesus were to ask us today what we have to give, our answer would be:

We have the power you have given us to do the impossible. The same power that turned five loaves and two fish into a feast for thousands—with leftovers—empowers us “to accomplish far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine.” Do we allow this truth to settle into our bones and animate our actions?

I'll admit, I tried to avoid this passage because it felt overly optimistic in light of today's world. People still go hungry. Wars rage. The earth groans under our misuse. Yet if we reimagine the systems we created, studies show it is possible for every human being to have what they need.¹³ That would require massive restructuring, international cooperation, and the reallocation of resources—but not more than we already possess. We don't need a miracle of multiplication. We simply need to use what we've been given.

In a world convinced of scarcity, this is astonishingly good news. We already have enough. And as my mentor used to say, “Enough is abundance.” What will we do with this abundance? Is it too lofty to dream of a world that sustains all of life? Perhaps. Yet I believe it is God's own desire that all may have life, and have it abundantly.¹⁴ This is the work before us, accomplished through the power at work within us, through Jesus Christ. Amen. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman