

CROSSROADS

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



The good news is...protection and care for the vulnerable

March 15, 2026

Fourth 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	Gretchen Davis	Andrea Weatherly
LECTOR	Kolleen Olsen	Jim Nelson
USHER/ACOLYTE	Linda Radtke	Bonnie Anderson
GREETER	Annette Steichen	Nancy Jahnke
COMMUNION SETUP/CLEANUP	Kolleen Olsen	Carol Hoiby
COMMUNION SERVERS	Linda Radtke, Jaime Verkuilen	Jim & Laurel Nelson
COUNTERS	Patsy Thorsbakken, Gretchen Davis	Gwen Blomseth, Tony Houfek

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

God loves the field mouse.

All: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

All: God loves the child who rocks and claps.

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

All: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**All: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,
standing strong over all of us.**

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

All: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

So let us worship this good-news God! **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Family of Faith, every week we pray the Prayer of Confession, because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace. Every week we need to be reminded of God's love. Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change. So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation. Friends, let us pray:

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

All: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

All: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

All: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

All: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

Fortunately for all of us, God also said,
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.”

**All: By God’s grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives! **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

“Beautiful Things” vv. 1-3

ACS 925

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

Holy One,

All: sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, “Love your enemy.” “Turn the other cheek.” “Care for the widow and the orphan.” And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray. Amen.

Please be seated.

“This Little Light of Mine” v. 1

ELW 677

Children, please come forward while we sing.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Cassie Nault

“This Little Light of Mine” v. 2

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

READING: DEUTERONOMY 24:17-22

¹⁷ “You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow’s garment in pledge. ¹⁸ Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

¹⁹ “When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings. ²⁰ When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

²¹ “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. ²²Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

page 205 ELW

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 19:13-15

The Holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, ¹⁴but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” ¹⁵And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cassie Nault

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As the Grains of Wheat” vv. 1-2

ELW 465

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: Jesus of Nazareth...

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.

L: Please be seated.

OFFERING

Offertory Music: 8:30 "Carpenter" (from Canticle of the Cross)

Cross of Glory Choir

10:45 "We Are an Offering" (2X)

ELW 692

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

“Lamb of God” vv. 1-3

page 208 ELW

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive” vv. 1-4

ELW 605

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

“Let Streams of Living Justice” vv. 1-3

ELW 710

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 Noon – Cristo Rey at Atonement
Monday	8am – Crossroads Bible Study at Atonement 10:30 – Kitchen Kutups at Atonement 2pm – Puzzles at Atonement 6pm – Girl Scouts at Atonement
Tuesday	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 6pm – Zumba at Atonement
Wednesday	5:30 – Soup Supper at Cross of Glory 6:30 – Midweek Lenten Worship at Cross of Glory
Thursday	9:30 – Visitation Team Meeting at Cross of Glory 1pm – Game Day at Atonement 3pm – Marnie Theis Violin Lessons at Cross of Glory
Friday	5pm – New Birth at Cross of Glory
Saturday	9am – New Birth at Cross of Glory 9am – Mount of Blessings at Atonement
Sunday	<i>Celtic Worship – Wear your kilts and green!</i> 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 18 at 5:30pm for soup supper and mid-week Lenten service at 6:30pm. Soup supper sign up is in the narthex.

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS is today!

CELTIC WORSHIP – Come in your kilts or green clothing next Sunday, March 22 as we have a little fun for St. Patrick's Day!

THANK YOU for all the prayers, visits and cards from Crossroads Parish while I was in the hospital and while I was recovering. It was all very appreciated! ~ Mary Billington

CROSSROADS SPRING PLANT SALE – Don't forget to order your spring plants now! 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.

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 assemble treat bags, hide eggs and general help. Just show up at 9am that morning if you can help. Candy donations are needed too.

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.

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.*

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 tonight, **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.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2848 W County Road H2 next Sunday, March 22 from 8:30am – 12:30pm. All proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity. Stop by before or after our worship services for some pancakes!

MID-WEEK LENTEN SCHEDULE

Soup Supper 5:30; Worship 6:30

MID-WEEK SERVICES

March 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

Fuera ICE15 by Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Deuteronomy 24:17-22; 16"x20" Acrylic, marker, paper on canvas

The stranger who enters foreign land is often forced to flee their own home. It is rare for people to risk their entire livelihood and their family for anything other than necessity. For that reason, each portrait has a halo deeming them holy, sacred, and divine. I used sparkling gold paper to break up each distinct image. Look deeply at these portraits. The top left is inspired by the Maasai people, a nomadic group that dwells across borders. The top right image is an indigenous woman and her child, a nod to Mary and Jesus. She has a red palm across her mouth which is a tribute to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and "Two-Spirit" people. The bottom left is a slightly aging man from Mesoamerica. The bottom right is a woman in hijab, which is commonly targeted in Islamophobic spaces. Look at the people some consider to be a threat. Look at our neighbors. Migrants are sacred. —Rev. Nicolette Faison