

CROSSROADS

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



The good news is...rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness

March 22, 2026

Fifth 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	Jaime Verkuilen	Carreen Houfek
LECTOR	Monika Cook	Steve Klaers
USHER/ACOLYTE	Leslie Bjork	Carol Hoiby
GREETER	Jeanne Boyle	Carol Hoiby
COMMUNION SETUP/CLEANUP	Linda Radtke	Andrea Weatherly
COMMUNION SERVERS	Leslie Bjork, Paula Reed	Steven & Vicki Klaers
COUNTERS	Bob Reed, TBD	Sally Kline, 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

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

All: Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

All: Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

All: Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

All: This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

All: Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Jesus once said to a crowd, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time. None of us can get by without God's grace. In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth. We put down our stones and we turn to God for forgiveness. Join me in this act of transformation. Let us pray:

ALL: Holy God,

we love to live our lives by the rules.

We love clear answers.

We love right and wrong.

We love swift justice.

We love to pick up stones,

but you show us another way.

You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.

You prioritize mercy over legality.

You prioritize people over tradition.

You prioritize love over everything.

Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.

Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.

Forgive us. Soften our hearts.

Root us in mercy, justice, and love.

With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

All: Our God is a God of mercy.

Our God is a God of compassion.

Our God is a God of grace.

We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.

Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” vv. 1-4

ELW 502

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 One, when you speak, we don’t want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you wake with the dawn, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don’t want to miss it. So today we pray, clear out the cobwebs in our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open up space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today. With hope 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

Deacon Brad Mills

“This Little Light of Mine” v. 2

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

READING: MATTHEW 23:23

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.

Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

page 205 ELW

GOSPEL: JOHN 8:2-11

The Holy gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, ⁴they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Deacon Brad Mills

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Be Thou My Vision" vv. 1-4

ELW 793

CELTIC CREED

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

**All: We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth,**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,
and His kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,**

**Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Loving 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.

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

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

“Beautiful Things” vs. 1-3 - *Hymn of the Month*

ACS 925

“Amazing Grace” vv. 1-5

ELW 779

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.

IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

SENDING HYMN

“Canticle of the Turning” vv. 1-4

ELW 723

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

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“Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”

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 1pm – Kitchen Kutups at Atonement 2pm – Puzzles at Atonement 6pm – Girl Scouts at Atonement
Tuesday	6pm – Zumba at Atonement
Wednesday	5:30 – Soup Supper at Cross of Glory 6:30 – Midweek Lenten Worship at Cross of Glory
Thursday	1pm – Game Day at Atonement 3pm – Marnie Theis Violin Lessons at Cross of Glory
Friday	4pm – Atonement Charitable Giving Offsite 5pm – New Birth at Cross of Glory 6:30 – Faith and a Pint at Torg Brewery
Saturday	9am – New Birth at Cross of Glory 9am – Mount of Blessings at Atonement
Sunday	Palm 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>

THRIVENT MEMBERS - Thrivent clients with membership: Don't forget to direct 2025 Choice Dollars[®] by March 31 at thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Thank you to everyone who has already directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Atonement or Cross of Glory!

PLEASE JOIN US at Cross of Glory this Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30pm for soup supper and mid-week Lenten service at 6:30pm. Soup supper sign up is in the narthex.

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.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST today at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2848 W County Road H2, from 8:30am – 12:30pm. All proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SCHEDULE

Soup Supper 5:30; Worship 6:30

MID-WEEK SERVICES

March 25 – Cross of Glory



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – March 29

8:30am at Cross of Glory

10:45am at Atonement

Maundy Thursday – April 2 – 6:30pm at Atonement

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

Easter Sunday

7:30am – Sunrise Easter Worship at Cross of Glory

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

10:45am – Easter Worship at Atonement

Artist's Statement for Cover Art
There Is Good by *Hannah Garrity*

Inspired by Matthew 23:23

18"x18" Hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay

In this series of scriptures, gathered crowds drew my attention.¹⁹ Jesus always drew a crowd, but so did the voices of hate in his time. In our current historic moment, this dichotomy of crowds for justice and crowds for injustice confounds me. Are all crowds worthy of joining? In the background of this piece, I dyed and collaged together torn newspaper, representing the fabric of the world, to portray the cacophony of crowds gathering. What is drawing them in? Is everything that compels us to gather right and good? No.

The clarity comes in this scripture: "For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith" (Matthew 23:23). Most especially, in the context of Jesus denouncing the scribes and Pharisees, the crucial point is that gathering to enact justice is good and gathering to enact injustice *is not*.

The crowd depicted in this artwork is inspired by the 100,000 who gathered strong in Budapest, Hungary, in June, 2025. The Hungarian parliament had outlawed Pride as part of a larger systemic effort to take away the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community in Hungary, and a "wider effort to curb democratic freedoms ahead of a hotly contested national election next year."²⁰

In the four corners of the artwork, symbols of justice, mercy, and faithfulness echo the clarity of Jesus. Gathering for justice is the work of the gospel. — *Hannah Garrity*