



# **All Saints Lutheran Church**

**Holy Cross Day  
September 14, 2025**

## **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Sir, we wish to see Jesus! (John 12:21). Then look to His Holy Cross. For just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, so Jesus, when He is lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Himself (v. 32). He humbled Himself and became obedient even to the death of the cross to save us (Phil. 2:8). Everyone who is bitten by the ancient serpent's venom of sin, when he sees Christ shall live (Num. 21:8). The true Holy Cross is lost to history, and we cannot return to Calvary to find our salvation. So Christ brings the New Testament in His Blood to us. We preach Christ crucified . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God, though foolishness to the unbelieving world (1 Cor. 1:23–24). It pleases God through the folly of the cross we preach to save those who believe (v.21). We find the fruit and benefit of this Holy Cross poured out in Holy Baptism, spoken in the preaching of Holy Absolution, and delivered in the Body and Blood given and shed there for us. Thus are we strengthened to take up our crosses, sanctified by His (John 12:25–26).

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17030 Lancaster Highway  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
704-752-4287 [www.allsaintslutheran.org](http://www.allsaintslutheran.org)  
Rev. Jeffrey Ware, Pastor  
Joshua Pauling, Vicar  
Dr. Patricia Parker, Director of Music**

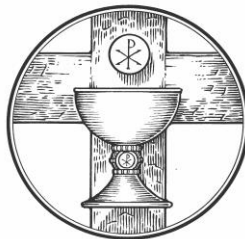
### **Communion at All Saints**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. It is important, therefore, that those who come to the Lord's Table trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Scripture also teaches that Holy Communion is a confession of faith. Those who receive the sacrament together show forth their unity in Christ, that is, a unity of heart and mind accomplished when all who commune together believe the same doctrine and are at peace with one another.

Scripture teaches that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and that Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, we, along with the historic Christian church, practice *Closed Communion*. Any who are not communicant members of All Saints, or another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward during communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest and bow your head, and the pastor will give you a blessing; and know that we would love to share more with you about our teaching and practice.

Prayers of preparation and thanksgiving for receiving the Lord's Supper are found in the LSB hymnal on p. 308.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; John 17:20–23; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.





# Divine Service 3

Holy Cross Day

## Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## 455 The Royal Banners Forward Go



1 The roy - al ban - ners for - ward go;  
 2 Where deep for us the spear was dyed,  
 3 Ful - filled is all that Da - vid told  
 4 On whose hard arms, so wide - ly flung,



The cross shows forth re - demp - tion's flow, Where He, by  
 Life's tor - rent rush - ing from His side, To wash us  
 In sure pro - phet - ic song of old, That God the  
 The weight of this world's ran - som hung, The price of



whom our flesh was made, Our ran - som  
 in the pre - cious flood Where flowed the  
 na - tions' king should be And reign in  
 hu - man - kind to pay And spoil the



in His flesh has paid:  
 wa - ter and the blood.  
 tri - umph from the tree,  
 spoil - er of his prey.

5 O tree of beauty, tree most fair,  
 Ordained those holy limbs to bear:  
 Gone is thy shame, each crimsoned bough  
 Proclaims the King of Glory now.

△ 6 To Thee, eternal Three in One,  
 Let homage meet by all be done;  
 As by the cross Thou dost restore,  
 So guide and keep us evermore.  
 Amen.

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, c. 530–609; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (sts. 5–6): tr. The Hymnal 1982  
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# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 98:1, 4, 6; antiphon: v. 2*



The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

**Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!\***

**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.**

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;\***

**break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!**

**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn\***

**make a joyful noise before the | King, the LORD!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

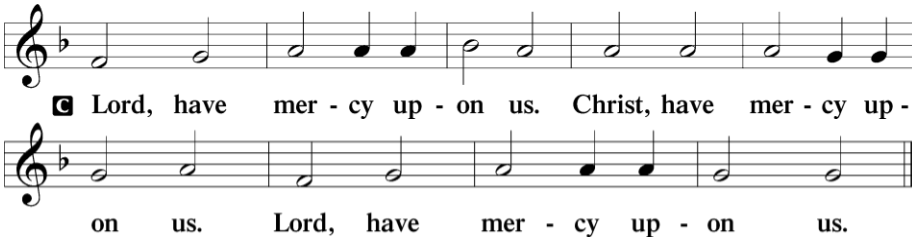
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

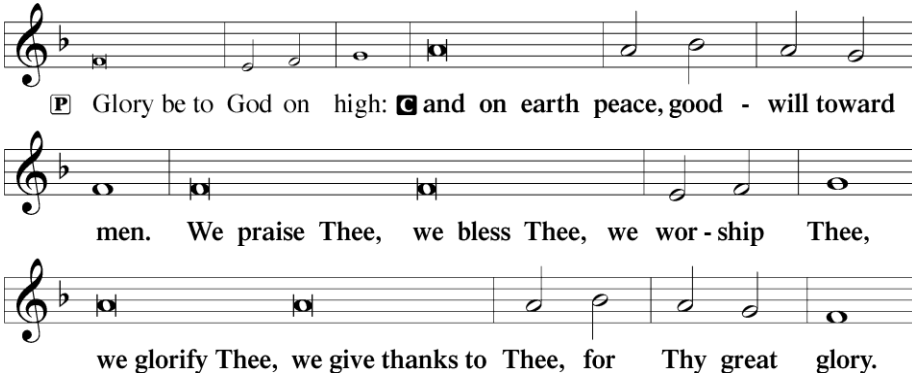
The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

## Kyrie



## Gloria in Excelsis






O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.




O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



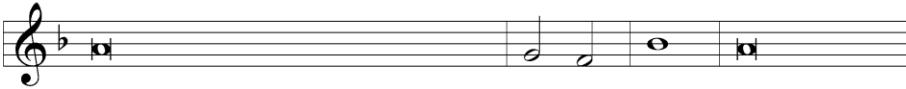
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,




that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



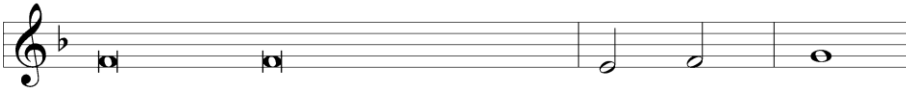
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

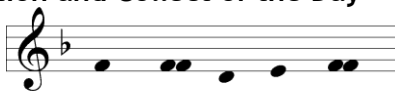


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**G** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading

*Numbers 21:4–9*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And 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 loathe this worthless food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Isaiah 49:22a; John 3:14b–15*



“Behold, I will lift up my hand to the | nations,\*  
and raise my signal to the peoples,” | [says the Lord.]  
**So must the Son of Man be | lifted up,\***  
**that whoever believes in him may have e- | ternal life.**

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse

*Galatians 6:14*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Far be it from | me to boast\*  
except in the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ,  
by which the world has been cruci- | fied to me\*  
and I | to the world.



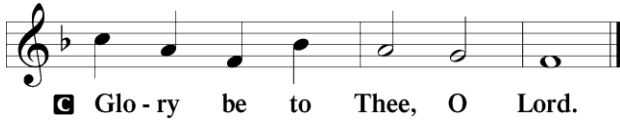
**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



## Holy Gospel

*John 12:20–33*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.



<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup>“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

## 454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; Sing the end - ing  
 2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness Of the ap - point - ed  
 3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com - plished, He went forth from  
 4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, Be for all the  
 △ 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; To the Fa - ther



of the fray. Now a - bove the cross, the tro - phy,  
 time was come, He, the Word, was born of wom - an,  
 Naz - a - reth, Des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,  
 no - blest tree; None in fo - liage, none in blos - som,  
 and the Son, To the e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or



Sound the loud tri - um - phant lay; Tell how Christ, the  
 Left for us His Fa - ther's home, Blazed the path of  
 Did His work, and met His death; Like a lamb He  
 None in fruit thine e - qual be; Sym - bol of the  
 Now and ev - er - more be done; Praise and glo - ry



world's re - deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.  
 true o - be - dience, Shone as light a - midst the gloom.  
 hum - bly yield - ed On the cross His dy - ing breath.  
 world's re - demp - tion, For the weight that hung on thee!  
 in the high - est While the time - less a - ges run.

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, c. 530–609; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021

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## Sermon

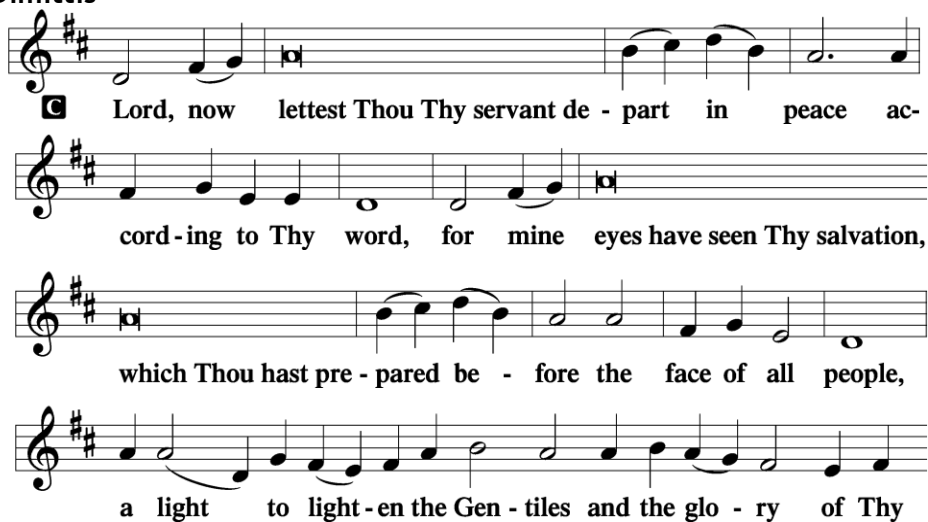
## Offertory



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

### Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

## Thanksgiving

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

# Benedicamus

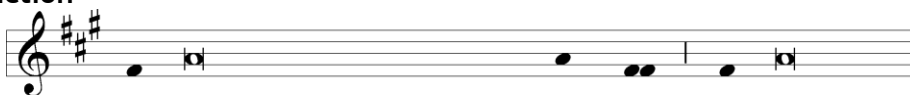


**[A]** Bless we the Lord.

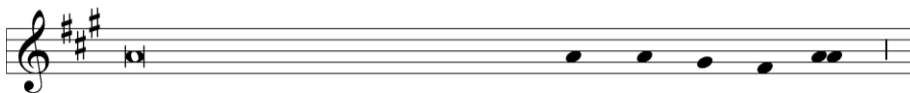


**C** Thanks be to God.

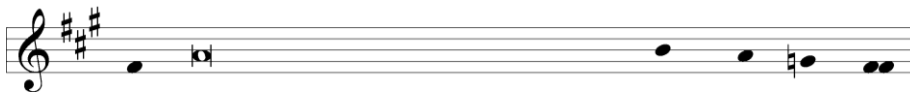
## Benediction



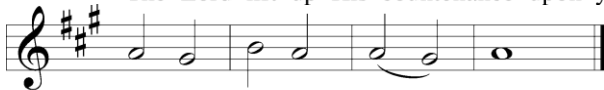
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to  
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He  
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to  
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,  
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,  
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion  
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts  
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,  
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.  
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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