

LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

Homecoming | Holy Cross Day

Come home to the cross

Blessing of faith formation ministries

September 14, 2025 + 9:30 am

Lost coin and lost sheep

God's Love Made Real
Come and see. Go and tell.

Christ is the mother who searches for her lost child

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

"Shine, Jesus, Shine

arr. G. Kendrick

At the sound of the bell please stand and face the worship leaders.

PROCESSION

"We are Marching"

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

A Blessed be God who calls us together. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and today you shower us again with the water of life.

A We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.
Here local bodies of water may be named.

P Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"All Are Welcome"

(hymn) ELW 641

stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

- 2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain**
- 3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain**
- 5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: Refrain**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Lift High the Cross”

(hymn) **ELW 660**
stanzas 1 & 4

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain***

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956
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GATHERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead
back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people
in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to
you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

Word

BLESSING OF FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

Sunday School teachers and learners

Youth counselor Oliver West

Bible Study leaders and participants

Music and liturgy teachers

Youth and adult forum teachers and learners

BIBLE MILESTONE - CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING

(appointed for Holy Cross Day)

Moses lifts up a bronze serpent in the wilderness Numbers 21:4b-9

This story is one of many describing the journey of the Israelites from Mount Sinai to Moab. The symbol of the snake, common in Canaan at this time, becomes a sign of God's judgment and healing.

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

⁵The 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." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

⁷The 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. ⁸And 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." ⁹So 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.

Learn, live and share God's word.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

(appointed for Holy Cross Day)

Psalm 98 ICEL

The LORD has done marvelous things. (98:1).

A Sing to the Lord a new song, the Lord of wonderful deeds.

C Right hand and holy arm brought victory to God.

A God made that victory known, revealed justice to nations,
remembered a merciful love, loyal to the house of Israel.

C The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

A Shout to the Lord, you earth, break into song, into praise!
Sing praise to God with a harp, with a harp and sound of
music.

**C With sound of trumpet and horn,
shout to the Lord, our sovereign.**

A Let the sea roar with its creatures,
the world and all that live there!

C Let rivers clap their hands, the hills ring out their joy!

A Lord our God comes, comes to rule the earth,

C justly to rule the world, to govern the peoples aright.

A Sing to the Lord a new song, the Lord of wonderful deeds.

**C Give praise to the Father Almighty;
to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts;
both now and forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING (*Holy Cross Day*) 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

The cross is the power of God to those who are being saved

In this letter, Paul makes clear his purpose to preach Christ and the wisdom of the cross. This "wisdom" confounds common perceptions of God: Christ crucified reveals God as the One who suffers with humankind.

Paul writes to the church in Corinth:

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the
discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where 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?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Learn, live and share God's word.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(hymn) **ELW 172**

The assembly stands and welcomes the gospel, singing:

**You are salt of the Earth, O people:
salt for the people of God.**

**Share the fire of life, O people,
life in the kingdom of God.**

**Sing Alleluia. Shine, O people.
Bring in the kingdom of God.
Sing Alleluia. Shine, O people.
Bring in the kingdom of God.**

GOSPEL

(appointed for this Sunday)

Lost sheep and lost coin

Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories about repentance to indicate that God takes the initiative in finding us. We are precious to God, and our recovery brings joy in heaven.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus.

²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ■ W&P 22

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

**1 You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God!**

Refrain

**Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!**

**2 You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God! Refrain**

**3 You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the Kingdom of God! Refrain**

**4 We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God! Refrain**

Text and music: Marty Haugen (c) 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us proclaim the faith that we share.

**C 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 INTERCESSION

Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.

each petition concludes:

...Hear us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

Meal

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

"There In Gods Garden"

(ELW 342)

1 Choir and congregation

There in God's garden stands the tree of wisdom.

whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:

Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all Beauty.

2 *Unison women*

**Its name is Jesus, name that says "Our Savior"!
There on its branches, see the scars of suffering,
See where the tendrils of our human selfhood,
feed on Its life blood.**

3 *Unison men*

**Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage.
Our greed has starved it. Our despite has choked it.
Yet, look it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it,
nor fire consumed it.**

4 *Choir only*

5 *Unison voices*

**This is my ending, this my resurrection.
Into your hands Lord, I commit my spirit.
This I have searched for, now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.**

6 *Unison voices with descant*

**All heav'n is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy, healing, strength and pardon."
People and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen, my Master.**

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

**C Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The assisting minister pours out the wine.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P ...and join their unending hymn:

in canon, piano side begins ELW hymn #525

C You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised
from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord! Sing hosanna in the
highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945
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The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1789)

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Communion

"Lamb of God"

D.C. Isele

**Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Bread of life, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.**

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us
with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

C Amen.

Sending

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

(hymn) ELW 720

"We Are Called"

1 Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain

We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

2 Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. Refrain

3 Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. Refrain

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"We Are Called"

arr. D. Haas

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Serving Today

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Tiffany Ruser, *assisting minister*

Diane Langer, *reader*

Children and youth, *procession*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Sanctuary Choir Jubilate Bells

Erik Ruser, Matti Gurney, *technology desk*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Patrick Kutzer, Jim Felicetta, *ushers*

Al Erickson, *bus ministry*

Al and Audrey Erickson, *webcast sponsors*

Evans family, *coffee hosts*

September Salty Carmel team, *hosts & greeters*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given by Kristine Stedje.

If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

If you wish to sponsor the webcast sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower-level following worship.

This service is being streamed live on the internet.

Welcome

Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on Give. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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learn, live and share God's word

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