

Holy Cross Day



THE CROSS BEARER.—Painted by L. Thiersch.

*“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
will draw all men unto Me.”
This He said, signifying what death He should die.*

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

+Holy Cross Day+

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Sep. 13, 2026

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Guests and Visitors: St. Paul's Lutheran Church follows the Biblical and Apostolic practice of Closed Communion. This respects: the Lord's Supper as the full expression of unity in doctrine and practice of all who partake (1 Corinthians 11:26); that the Pastor is accountable to God for the souls under his care (Hebrews 13:17); and that we are accountable to each other at the Lord's Table (1 Corinthians 10:14-17). For these reasons, we kindly ask **ALL GUESTS** (even if you are a member of another LCMS congregation) to please speak with the Pastor before communing.

Hymn of Invocation: 837 Lift High the Cross

sts. ref-6

Confession and Absolution (pg. 184-185)

Service of the Word (pg. 186-189)

Introit

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

The LORD has made known his salvation;

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 salvation 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 beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

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

Kyrie

LSB 186

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

⁴From 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. ⁵And 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.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And 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. ⁸And 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.” ⁹So 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 (Spoken in Unison)

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 eternal life.**

Epistle

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

*John 12:20–36***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, 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. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If 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.

²⁷“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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (Found inside the back cover of the hymnal)

Hymn of the Day: 454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

Sermon

Offering

Offertory

LSB 192

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament (pg. 194-198)

Distribution Hymn: 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Distribution Hymn: 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living
Distribution Hymn: 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Distribution Hymn: 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Nunc Dimittis
Thanksgiving

LSB 199
LSB 200

Post-Communion Collect

LSB 200

Benedicamus & Benediction

LSB 202

Hymn to Depart: 455 The Royal Banners Forward Go

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Welcome Visitors: We’re glad you’re worshipping with us today and pray this service is a blessing to you. If you don’t have a church home, we warmly invite you to join us regularly. To learn more about the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please speak with Pastor. **Please complete an attendance card for our records.** Activity bags and children’s bulletins are available in the back—just ask an usher. Welcome, and thank you for being here!

OCTOBER-DECEMBER - Portals of Prayer are available.

Remember in your prayers: The family of Alan Martens especially his sisters, Marcia Crofutt and Jolene Engel, The family of Dorothy Ratliff, Amy Dickmander, Perry Leimer, Sharon Abbott (Kevin Block’s aunt), Doug Luedke, Linda Peters, Paul Orth-Indian Hills Manor, Ron Orr-North Platte Care Center, Evelyn Frosh-Linden Court

Radio Ministry - Today’s broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Joyce Walls in loving memory of Nate Walls.

Lutherans for Life- September 13 “Again, our worth is never determined by what we do. God has given us value by creating, redeeming, and calling us as His own. Still, we can be comforted knowing that even as we age and reach the point where we can no longer be active, God not only watches over us and cares for us, He accomplishes great and wonderful things through us. May the Lord of life grant us the faith and the strength to bear the crosses of aging in such a way that others are led to see the love of Christ manifest in us!” *Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Lutheran Hour- September 13 "Forgiveness Is a Non-Negotiable" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler In God’s family, forgiveness is non-negotiable. It’s not up for debate because forgiveness is what makes us who we are. Matthew 6:12. Lexington 104.5 FM-10:30am (CT). North Platte's Christian KJLT 970 AM- Sun. at 2:00 pm (CT)

LCMS Stewardship Ministry- September 13 Matthew 6:25 – “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on.” Our anxieties and fears all come down to one thing: worrying that we will not have what we think we need. But God is our loving heavenly Father. He will always care for us, His will is always best, and He actually knows what we really need. That confidence should set us free from worry and make us free for service according to the callings God has given us.

September 13- September 19

Sunday	8:30 am	Communion Service
Sunday	9:45 pm	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School/ Teen Bible Study
Monday	12:00 noon	Ladies Circle

	5:00 pm	School Board
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Tie the Knot
Wednesday	8:15 am	Chapel Service
	5:30 pm	Confirmation
	7:00 pm	Midweek Vespers Service
Thursday	9:00 pm	No Ladies Bible Study

For our First Quarter Chapel Offerings, St. Paul's Lutheran School will be collecting items to assemble Hygiene Kits for Orphan Grain Train. These kits will be distributed worldwide.

Items Needed: Bath towels (*dark colors recommended*), washcloths, wide-tooth combs, nail clippers, bath-size bars of soap (*4–5 oz.*), and toothpaste (*2.5–3 oz.*). **A donation box is located at the back of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to contribute. Thank you!**

Dear Women of St. Paul Lutheran,
St. Paul Circle/LWML will continue to meet on the second Monday of each month beginning Monday September 14th, with a new meeting time of 12:00 Noon. We will begin with lunch, so please bring an item to share. For questions, please contact JoAnn Bradley.

Sunday School, Teen Bible Class, and Adult Bible Class will begin on Sept. 13
Sunday school is for children ages 3 thru 10 yrs old, and will meet in the art room of the school.

Teen Bible class for grades 6 thru 12 will meet in the parlor of the school. (Teens on the first meeting will be discussing what topics you would like to study.) We will also talk about other activities that we can do for fun and fellowship. So come with ideas for us to plan.
-Rick Bradley

Please note: There will not be Ladies Bible Study on Thursday 9/17.

Beginning on **Sunday, September 20th**, you are invited and encouraged to join us as we begin studying the Book of Jonah. Why should you join us? Over the course of this Bible Study, you will:

- Learn How and When Jonah is situated in Actual History
- Learn How Jonah's Story Applies to our Walk as Christians
- Learn How the Book of Jonah is Connected to the Rest of Scripture
- Learn How to Understand Jonah Christologically- How Jonah Relates to Jesus

From Martin Luther's Sermon for
Trinity Sunday
John 3:1-15

Now, Christ might have died upon the cross a thousand times and we would have been helped just as little as the Israelites would have been helped by raising a thousand serpents of their own accord, if this Word of promise had not been issued, namely, as is written: "Whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish" etc. This Word appropriates and applies to us these blessings and makes us certain that we shall reach heaven; that is, certain that for the sake of this exalted and crucified Christ we shall obtain the grace of God and victory over the power of sin, death and hell, and shall receive eternal life, if we believe on Him and are thus borne upward clinging to Him.

The artwork is from *Beautiful Stories about Jesus*, by Farrar. The quotation above is from *Luther's Church Postils* of 1905, which are available on audio CDs.

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