Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN

507-896-3102

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Worship
Sunday with Holy Communion/FB
November 22, 2026



Monday:	
Tuesday:	
Wednesday:	Church Office Closed
Thursday:	**Happy Thanksgiving!**
	Private Rental
Friday:	Pastor's Day Off
Saturday:	
Sunday:	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship w/Holy Communion/FB
	10:30 a.m. Coffee Hr.
	No Classes

Cross of Christ Mission Statement*: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.*

Prelude

Ringing of the Church Bell

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness
In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Silence is kept for reflection.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Illumin8 – 6th Grade Bells

Gathering Song: ELW #824 "This Is My Father's World"

1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong
seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Prayer of The Day
God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Choir

Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23
15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for
this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my
prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit
of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart
enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the
riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable
greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great
power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and
seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and
power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in
the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head
over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95:1-7a
1 Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.
3 For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are also yours.

5 The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship and bow down,**
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
7a For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46
P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."
P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon **Pastor Dana Jackson**

Hymn of the Day ELW #779 "Amazing Grace" vs 1,3&5

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and
snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

5 When we've been there ten thousand
years, bright shining as the sun,
we've known less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Confirmation Bells – 7th & 8th Graders

Apostle's Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Prayers of Intercession:
P: Lord in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

Offering Collection

Offertory "Let the Vineyards be Fruitful"
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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, for ever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion
Congregation Response: **All are welcome.**

The Distribution *(Please sign the pew pad.)*
Communion Hymns: 677, 638, 790

Sending Song: ELW #890 “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
his truth is marching on.

(Refrain)
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

2 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat.
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. Refrain

3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
while God is marching on. Refrain

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Postlude

Thank You for helping with the service today:

Organist: Gayle Smith
Choir Director: Jake Olson, Jo Ann Miller
Reader: Jenelle Lemke
Acolytes: Adelyn Hegland-Tarr, Macsen Hegland-Tarr
Communion: Cheryl Eaton, Lynn Meyer, Teddi Nastor-Whitney
Usher: Natalie Hagen, Della Hegland-Tarr, Duane Hegland

Announcements

Thursday November 26th Poinsettia Forms Due this week.

Sunday December 6th WELCA Cookie Walk following worship.
Noisy Offering Collection, K-6 Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:30-11:30am.

Tuesday December 8th the WELCA board will meet at 2:00 to develop the WELCA budget and allocations for 2027. The meeting will be held in the church library.

Friday December 11th WELCA will be having their annual Christmas program at 2:00 in the fellowship hall. ALL Cross of Christ women are invited to come to fellowship with other women. There will be a fun holiday program and delicious holiday lunch after.

Sunday December 13th Christmas Program during the Church service.

Salvation Army bell ringing at Root River Market! Get in the holiday spirit by helping those in need. All donations stay in Houston County.
Sign up on Sign Up Genius:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DADA628A4FACE9-67216076-salvation#/
or contact Lisa Skifton at 507-429-3820 or lisa.skifton@gmail.com to sign up for a shift.

qr code for salvation army bell ringing signup genius page.