Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Worship
Sunday with Holy Communion/Caring Collection/FB
November 15, 2026



Monday:	9:00 a.m. WELCA (kitchen cleaning)
Tuesday:	6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
Wednesday:	
Thursday:	
Friday:	Pastor's Day Off
Saturday:	**9:00 a.m. WELCA Holiday Bazaar**
Sunday:	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship w/Holy Communion/FB
	10:30 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal/Confirmation/Coffee Hr.

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**

Gathering Song: ELW #715 "Christ, Be Our Light" vs 1,2&5

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

(Refrain)
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. **R**

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. **R**

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: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord
will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then
sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman,
and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that
day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day;
we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but
let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are
drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the
breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has
destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who
died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore
encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-8,12
1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

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

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two,
to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one
who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more
talents.
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the
one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled
accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward,
bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I
have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy
slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward,
saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more
talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying,
'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering
where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.
Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You
knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then
you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have
received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the
one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will
have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken
away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "
P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon **Pastor Dana Jackson**

Hymn of the Day ELW #707 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" vs 1,2&4

1 Lord of glory, you have bought us
with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones
that tremendous sacrifice;
and with that have freely given
blessings countless as the sand
to the unthankful and the evil
with your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness
melt our thankless hearts of stone
till our cold and selfish natures,
warmed by you, at length believe
that more happy and more blessed
'tis to give than to receive.

4 Lord of glory, you have bought us
with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones
that tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly,
hope, to stay our souls on you:
but, oh, best of all your graces,
with your love our love renew.

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.**

Caring Collection

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: 838, 595, 863

Sending Song: ELW #632 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” vs 1,2&6

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

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

Thank You for helping with the service today:

Organist: Shelley Jerviss
Choir Director: Jake Olson, Jo Ann Miller
Reader: Susan Ferries
Acolytes: Anika Carrier, Megan Ulmen
Communion: Sheryl Sherry, Carol Meeks, Susan Ferries
Usher: Claire Srock, Amelia Halvorson, Duane Hegland

Announcements

Saturday November 21st WELCA Holiday Bazaar 9:00-12:00.

Thursday November 26th Poinsettia Forms Due.

Sunday December 6th WELCA Cookie Walk following worship. We encourage you to get your best holiday treat recipes out and make some to share at the cookie walk.

Sunday December 6th 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.