

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship with Holy Communion/FB
Confirmation Sunday
April 26, 2026



Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday: Pastor's Day Off

Saturday:

Sunday: 9:30 am New Member Sunday Worship Service w/Holy
Communion/Baptism/FB
10:30 Coffee hour

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

Ringling of the Church Bell

Announcements

Gathering Song: ELW #807 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Prayer of The Day

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Choir

Reading: Acts 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

P: The holy Gospel according to John. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Dana Jackson

Hymn of the Day ELW #574 "Here I Am, Lord"

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

(Refrain)

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" **R**

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" **R**

Confirmands

Tatum Bartsch, Delaney Erickson, Alivia Halvorson, Asher Meyer, Garret Reay.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

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.**

Affirmation in the Presence of Assembly

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant of God made with you in holy baptism:

To live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Individual Confirmands are Confirmed with the laying on of hands.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Prayers of Intercession:

Lord in your mercy. **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: 595, 677, 781, 785, 789

Sending Song: ELW #543 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure."

3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free."

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

Acolytes: Della Hegland-Tarr, Macsen
Hegland-Tarr

Reader: Lisa Skifton

Communion: Lisa Skifton, Sheryl Sherry,
Carol Meeks

Usher: Amelia Halvorson, Owen Krings,
Duane Hegland

Announcements

Sunday May 3rd New Member Sunday we welcome all those who wish to join our family here at Cross of Christ to come to our 9:30 am worship service. If you would be comfortable Pastor Dana will invite you forward during the worship service to acknowledge you and offering a blessing. Please email the church office at cofc@acegroup.cc if you can join us on May 3rd.

Coffee hour host volunteers are needed for May 10th and May 17th. Please notify the church office if you are available to host.

Summer Worship Schedule

8:30am Sunday Morning Worship at the Stone Church

May 24 Memorial Day- September 6 Labor Day

1st Sunday of each month Noisy Offering

3rd Sunday of each month Non-Communion Worship & Caring Collection

June 21 Caring Collection Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce

July 19 Caring Collection Cereal (please no Cheerios)

August 16 Caring Collection Peanut Butter & Jelly