

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship with Holy Communion/FB
September 13, 2026



Monday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting Day

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting Day
6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Pastor's Day Off

Saturday: Private building rental

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/Caring Collection/FB
10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation
S.C. Preservation mtg.

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

Ringin' of the Church Bell

Announcements

Gathering Song: ELW #835 "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!" vs 1,3&5

1 All creatures, worship God most high!

Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;

sing, sister moon and stars of night:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

alleluia!

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,

drive far the shadows, join the throng:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, so rich in care,

praise God in colors bright and rare:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Since Christ our light has pierced your
gloom, fair is the night that leads us
home.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!

Prayer of The Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

**Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may
delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Choir

Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8-13

⁸ Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹ **you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ **As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Dana Jackson

Hymn of the Day ELW #413 “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!”

1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise
to thee.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore
thee, casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down
before thee, which wert and art, and
evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness
hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness
thy glory may not see, only thou art holy;
there is none beside thee, perfect in
pow'r, in love and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in
earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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.**

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: 471, 838, 629

Sending Song: ELW #879 “For the Beauty of the Earth” vs 1,3&5

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: **R**

(Refrain)

**Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: **R**

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

Reader: Lynn Meyer

Communion: Lynn Meyer, Denise

Rostad, Sheryl Sherry

Usher: Duane Hegland

Announcements

Sunday September 20th Caring Collection we are collecting pasta, canned chicken and tuna.

Thursday October 1st Squash needed at Church by this date – No later, please!

Tuesday October 6th Potato and squash peeling and cutting 4:00 pm.

Wednesday October 7 Cross of Christ Annual Fall Supper

4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. CARRY OUTS and LIMITED IN-HOUSE SEATING.

Menu: Meatballs/Gravy, Real Mashed Potatoes, 2 Salads, Green Beans, Home Grown Squash, Apple Pie. Cost: \$15.00.

REMINDER: Please check the kitchen shelf for any of YOUR missing pans/bowls. These shelves need to be cleared out for our Fall Supper!