

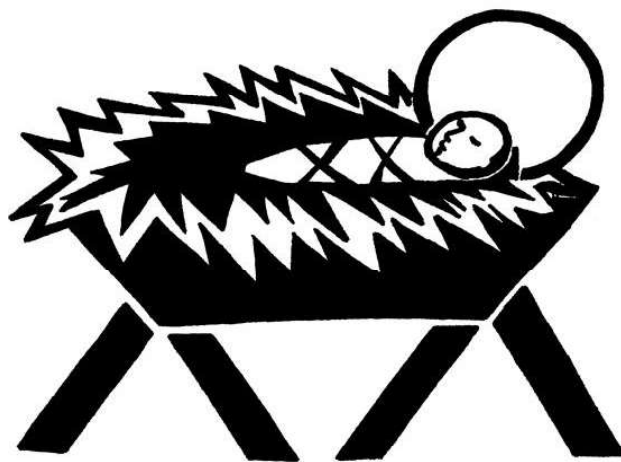


**July 26, 2026
Worship with Holy Communion
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
10:00 a.m.**

Rev. Samantha Perret, Presiding

***Welcome to all who worship with us today, especially
our visitors. We invite you to return and worship with us
again.***

Hymns are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Service Book and Hymnal (red book).



+ GATHERING +

Welcome and Announcements

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Music by Pastor Sam

***Gathering Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1,5)**

ELW: #257

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the

communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ WORD +

First Reading: 1 Samuel 17 (abridged)

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle Saul and the Israelites gathered and encamped in the valley of Elah and formed ranks against the Philistines. The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was four cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron, and his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants, but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah named Jesse, who had eight sons. The three eldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle; For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

Jesse said to his son David, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers; also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See how your brothers fare, and bring some token from them."

Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel were in the valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines. David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

All the Israelites, when they saw the man, fled from him and were very much afraid. David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" The people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

His eldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the men, and Eliab's anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down just to see the battle." David said, "What have I done now? It was only a question." He turned away from him toward another and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before.

When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father, and whenever a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth, and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the

hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!"

Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I am not used to them." So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head, and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear, for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine; he grasped his sword, drew it out of its sheath, and killed him; then he cut off his head with it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading for us today is: Cake Elie

***Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Once in Royal David's City (verses 1,3)* **ELW:** #269

Sharing prayers with us today is: Keith Weston

Prayers of Intercession:

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. We pray especially for those on our prayer list below, all whom we send cards through our Care Card Ministry, on our prayer tree, and those we now name in our hearts or with our voices... [*Current prayer list: Robert Sharon, Hans, Rena A., Tony B., Brandy G., Mary Anne Thulin, Lisa B., Ellen Cady, Jennifer I. and family, Ann B., Katie T., Andrea W., Ruth Karmelowicz, Jodi E., Carolyn E., Barbara Croft, Andrea C., Rick and Lona B., Chris C., Tina S., Carly, Pat M., Francesca R., Melvin V. Jr., Melvin V. Sr., Mary Y, Brittany, Barbara S, Joshua, Luna, Elaine W, Jim C, Arlene S, Judy J, Jacky A, Eva B, Shawn Y, Candie L, Mark B, Nadia & Gary M, Glenn & Ann, Adam K, Don M, Lori, Susan A, Randy and Priscilla B, Randolph K, Jeff S*]. God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, you are the source of goodness, and we thank you for the blessings you bestow upon us, especially these blessings we name here now...God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

+ Meal +

*Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray,

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

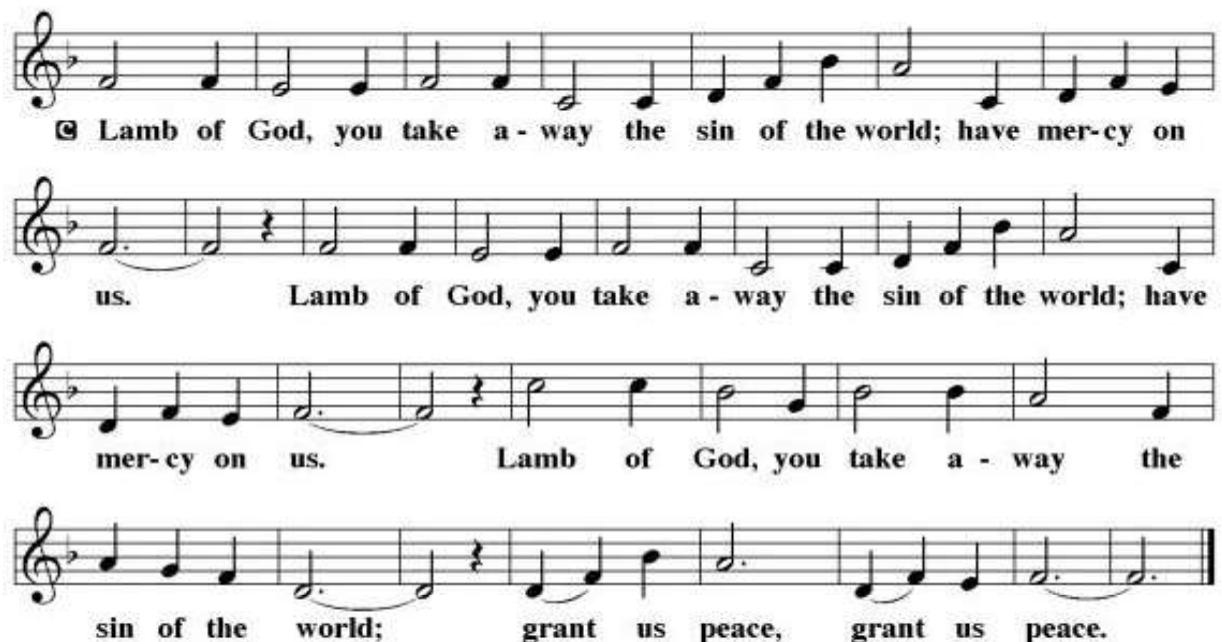
C: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and

Earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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, forever and ever. Amen.**



Assisting with Communion today is: Pat Huesch

Communion Distribution: This is the Lord's table, and **all** are invited to participate in this banquet of life.

*Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray.

C: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ SENDING +

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: *Joy to the World*

ELW: #267

P: Go in peace, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

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Christmas in July has started! Beginning on July 19, there will be copies of Christmas Wish Lists for back-to-school items in our church entryway and in the community room. Again this summer, we will be providing the 1st Grade teachers and students at Wendell Cross School with many necessary items to start the school year. The teachers and kids really appreciate our "gifts". Please take a list, purchase some items, and return to church **by August 9**. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, you may write a check to COC Church or give cash in the collection in an envelope clearly marked "Back to School". Questions? Ask Nadia or Delphine.

Pastor Sam on Vacation: Pastor Sam will be on vacation from

Monday, August 3rd through Sunday, August 23rd. Pastor Diane Rainson will be on call for emergencies.

Picnic with Grace: Grace Lutheran Church in Naugatuck has invited Cross of Christ to a picnic worship service at Veteran's Park in Bethany on Sunday, August 23rd at 10:30am. There will be no worship at Cross of Christ that day. Stay tuned for theme and offering requests!

GWIM Food Pantry Needs: Chili powder, Alfredo sauce, spaghetti sauce, canned chicken, BEEF GRAVY in jar or can, Lipton Onion Soup, garlic powder, regular salt, Montreal Chicken spice and Montreal Steak spice, Kinder spices, canned hash, barbecue sauce, lids cereal, sliced white bread, Parboiled rice. **NEEDED: GRANOLA BARS, PRE-PACKAGED FRUIT SNACKS FOR KIDS' CLUB PROGRAM.**

Altar Care Volunteers:

7/26: Janine Kifer & Charmaine Lawton

8/2: Delphine Blewitt & Charmaine Lawton

8/9: Tish Hunter & Seita Glasgow

8/16: Janine Kifer & Delphine Blewitt

Hospitality:

7/26: Lisa B.

Council Members:

- Becky Armington - President
- Charmaine Lawton - VP
- Blanche Feero/Lisa Rapisarda - Secretary
- Pat Huesch - Financial Secretary
- Arnold Arnajallum
- Dolly Caldwell
- Bob Melnick

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

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(Erin's Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-4:30)

Pastor Samantha (Sam) Perret, Presiding

860-790-1108

www.crossofchrist-wtby.org /
facebook.com/waterburycrossofchrist

*To welcome all into safe, sacred relationship, as the
Spirit works through us to embody God's love and grace
in the world.*

