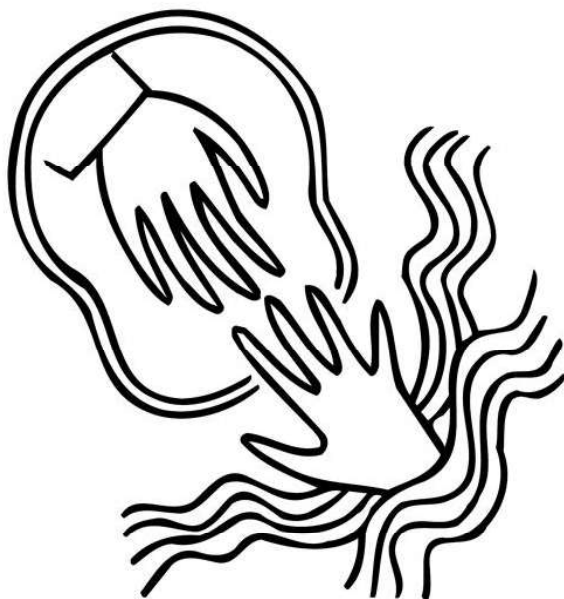




August 16th, 2026
Service of the Word
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
10:00 a.m.
Keith Weston, lay leader

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 & Hymnal (red book).



+ GATHERING +

Welcome and Announcements

* Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

L: 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.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: 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.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *This is My Father's World*

ELW: #824

*Greeting

L: 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.

L: Let us pray,

C: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ WORD +

Reading for us today is: Elaine Weston

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

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

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Paul writes: I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

***Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28**

The Gospel according to Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's

food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

ELW: #733

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

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

Sharing prayers with us today is: Pat Huesch

Prayers of Intercession

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind, especially 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: Michael G., Rosemarie K., Sara W., Suzanne G., Pete Connolly, 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*]. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, **receive 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.**

Dear God, we give you thanks for the gift of life to Joan Frohn and Carl Edquist, who will be celebrating their birthdays this week. Grant them the joy of your continued presence throughout the years to come. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.
Amen.

*** Sharing the Peace**

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

C: And also with you.

+ THANKSGIVING+

*** Offering Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

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.

+ SENDING +

L: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: *Let All Things Now Living*

ELW: #881

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

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Back to School Project Update:

This Sunday, Aug. 16 we will fill the individual bags for all the first graders. We need about 6 people to help.

Monday, Aug. 24 A.M. we load up the cars (2-3) and deliver to Wendell Cross. Time to be determined. Talk to Delphine or Nadia if you can help on either date. So many of you donated so generously. We only had to purchase another \$70 in supplies, mostly for the kids' snacks, and this was covered by your monetary donations. ***Well done! Thanks so much...***

Pastor Sam on Vacation: Pastor Sam is 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: The pre-packaged small bags of potato chips (especially), fruit snacks, granola bars, pudding, cookies, fruit cups. GWIM currently does not need any additional jelly or spices.

Altar Care Volunteers:

8/16: Janine Kifer & Delphine Blewitt

8/23: NO WORSHIP SERVICE; PICNIC w/ GRACE LUTHERAN

8/30: Tish Hunter & Seita Glasgow

9/6: Janine Kifer & Seita Glasgow

Hospitality:

8/16: Rita

8/23: N/A

8/30: Volunteers Needed!

**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

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

