Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Guiding our journey of faith.

November 8, 2026
Worship with Holy Communion
Twenty-Fourth 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 Barbara Mase

***Gathering Hymn:** *Let Streams of Living Justice* **ELW:** *#710*

*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: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ WORD +

Reading for us today is: Donna Liljestrand

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about

those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

***Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying* ***ELW:*** *#436*

***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: Barbara Mase

Prayers of Intercession:

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. 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: Paul Kondash, Valerie Barkus, Hanni Ferck, Kelly B., Sandra, Sister Margaret, Sigrid, Hans, Julia D., Katie M., Rosemarie K., Sara W., Suzanne G., Pete Connolly, Robert Sharon, Rena A., Brandy G., Mary Anne Thulin, 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., 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, Nadia & Gary M, Glenn & Ann, Adam K, Don M, Lori, Susan A, Randy and Priscilla B, Randolph K, Jeff S*]. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **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.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
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.

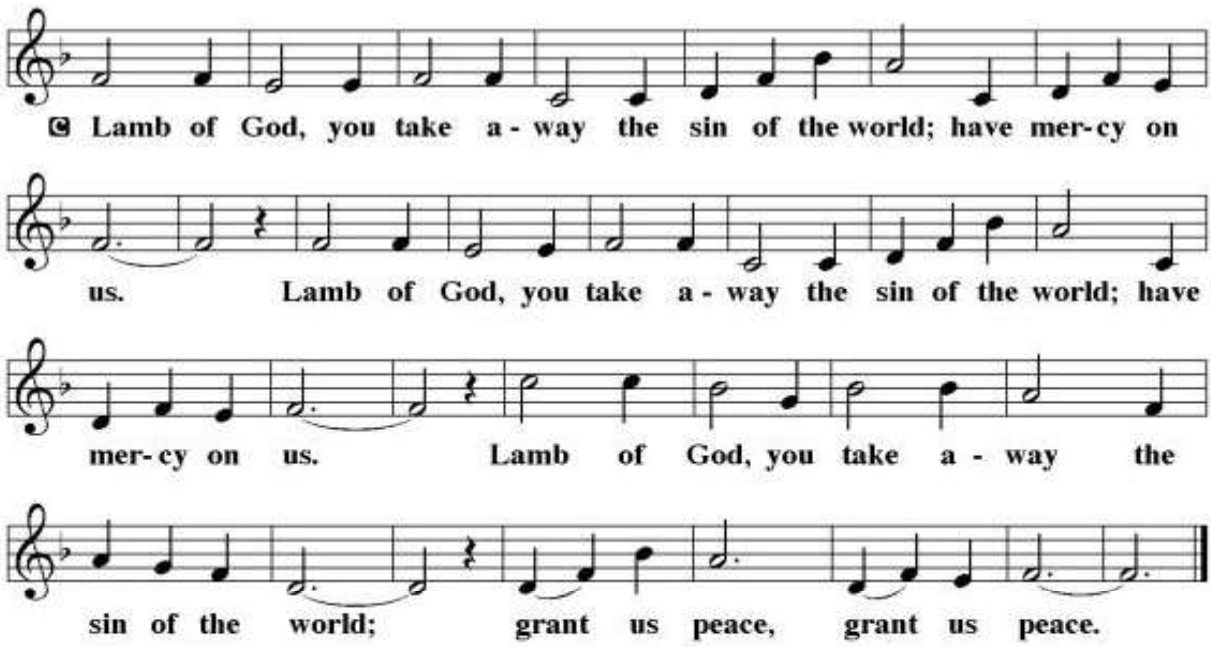
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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: Seita Glasgow

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: *Soon And Very Soon* **ELW:** *#439*

P: Go in peace, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Sundays and Seasons v.20220201.1223 Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS016719.

Attendance Information: For Sunday, November 1, we had 24 church members.

Hospitality Needs $$$$: Janine, who purchases all the coffee supplies for Sunday hospitality from your free-will donations, is running out of money (and we all know that coffee is really expensive)! If you're a regular at Sunday coffee hour, please put some dollars in the donation basket on the goodie table over the next few weeks to help provide all the beverages. Much appreciated.

Bible Study Update: Bible study will convene on Tuesday (Zoom) / Thursday (In-Person). During our Bible Study time, we will be taking a deep dive into the life and theology of Martin Luther.
Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85295173780

GWIM Food Pantry Needs: washable microfiber wipes are needed for the GWIM kitchen. Most needed: jars or bags of Parmesan cheese, cereal, and parboiled rice. We can also accept monetary donations if you do not wish to do your own shopping!

- The "Turkey Give-Away" program will be held this year. NEEDED ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY AND SOUP KITCHEN: Bags of stuffing, Cranberry Sauce. Updates should be available soon. Need help shopping--we can accept monetary donations and shop for you.

Altar Care Volunteers:
11/8: Seita & Charmaine
11/15: Tish & Delphine
11/22: Janine & Seita
11/29: Charmaine & Delphine

Hospitality:
11/8:

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

1555 Hamilton Ave. Waterbury, CT 06706-2401

203-527-3752 / office.crossofchristwtby@gmail.com

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.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Guiding our journey of faith.