

VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE INVITE YOU TO BRING YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
TO WORSHIP WITH US.

NO PART OF YOU NEEDS TO BE LEFT AT THE DOOR.

GOD'S LOVE IS INCLUSIVE, EVER ABUNDANT, AND MEANT
TO BE EXPRESSED THROUGH OUR ACTIONS IN THE WORLD.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!



Vashon Lutheran Church
14th Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Cross Day
Sept. 14, 2025, 10:30 AM

Prelude

Marita Ericksen

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patte Wagner, Lay Leader

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Rev. John Michael Barich

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

Frank Ericksen, Acolyte

Gathering Hymn (next page):

ELW, #338

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me,
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869
 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

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.**

KYRIE:

ACS, p. 31

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth,
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth,
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.** *Congregation sits*

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

Patte Wagner, Lector (L)

Lector: A reading from Numbers, Chapter 21.

L: [From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 98:1-4

REFRAIN(next page):

TFF, #13



Psalm Tone for Verses:



Music: Rawn Harbor, refrain; *Lutheran Book of Worship*, tone 9

Refrain © 1987 Rawn Harbor, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Tone © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,

***whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.**

O LORD, you have made | known your victory,

***you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations. REFRAIN**

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;

***all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.**

Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands; *lift up your voice, re- | joice and sing.

REFRAIN

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:18-24

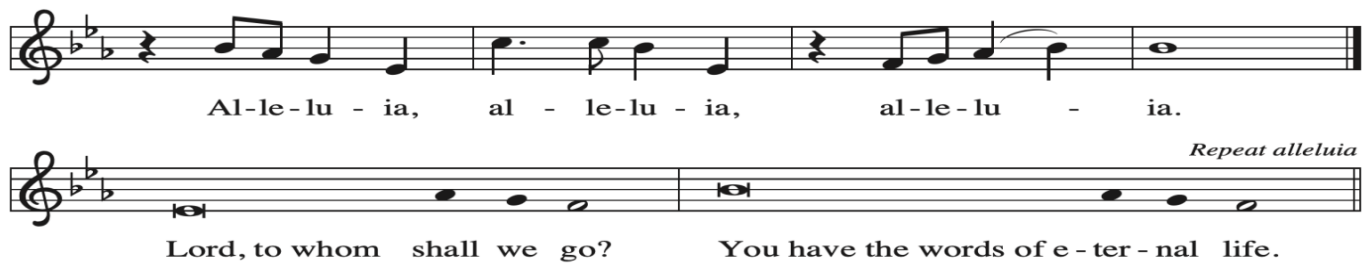
Patte Wagner, Lector

Lector: A reading from I Corinthians, Chapter 1.

L: The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.** *Stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (next page):

ACS, P. 31



GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

Rev. John Michael Barich

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, Chapter 3. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: [Jesus said:] “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

Please sit

Message:

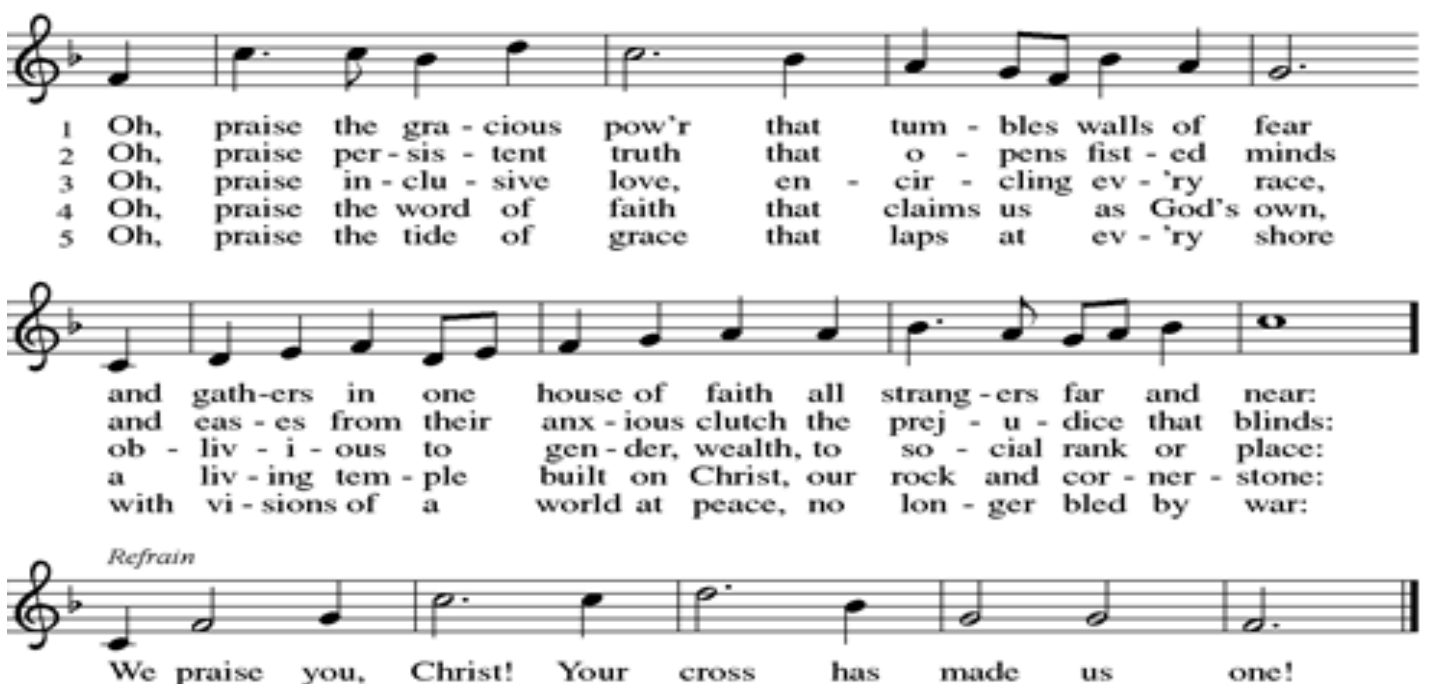
Rev. John Michael Barich

Congregation stands as able

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW, 651, vs. 1-4

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



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. *Please sit.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

June Langland, Assisting Minister (A)

A: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. May we look to the cross and live.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we look to the cross and live.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. May they seek the way of the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving. Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P: Children of God, what is on your hearts this morning? What else shall we pray for? (*Prayers of thanksgiving/petition may be offered aloud here*).... God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **C: Amen.**

P: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you. *Share the peace.***

P: Now is the time for the sharing of our gifts to God.

GOD OF STARS AND DISTANT PLANETS

Hans Peterson



God of stars and dis-tant plan-ets, the far-thest reach-es of
Praise you God the cos-mic art-ist for daz-z'ling beau-ty com-
Help us find with-in cre-a-tion, O God of crea-tures and
night. plex. trees, Lead us home to re-dis-cov-er you, our Liv-ing
Vi-brant col-ors fill the can-vas; your im-age it re-
a new way to grow with na-ture; sort out our wants and
Light flects. needs. Ig-nite us with a pas-sion ea-sel liv-ing, to call be your liv-ing
Trans-form our way of liv-ing, we good pray what you first
sparks. saw. name. May we ra-di-ate your splen-dor, rays of
May we all for gen-er-a-tions live with
Turn our vi-sion in-to ac-tion that your
sun that shine in the dark, rays of sun that shine in the dark.
such a-ware-ness and awe, live with such a-ware-ness and awe.
work of art be sus-tained, that your work of art be sus-tained.

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OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. **C:** Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

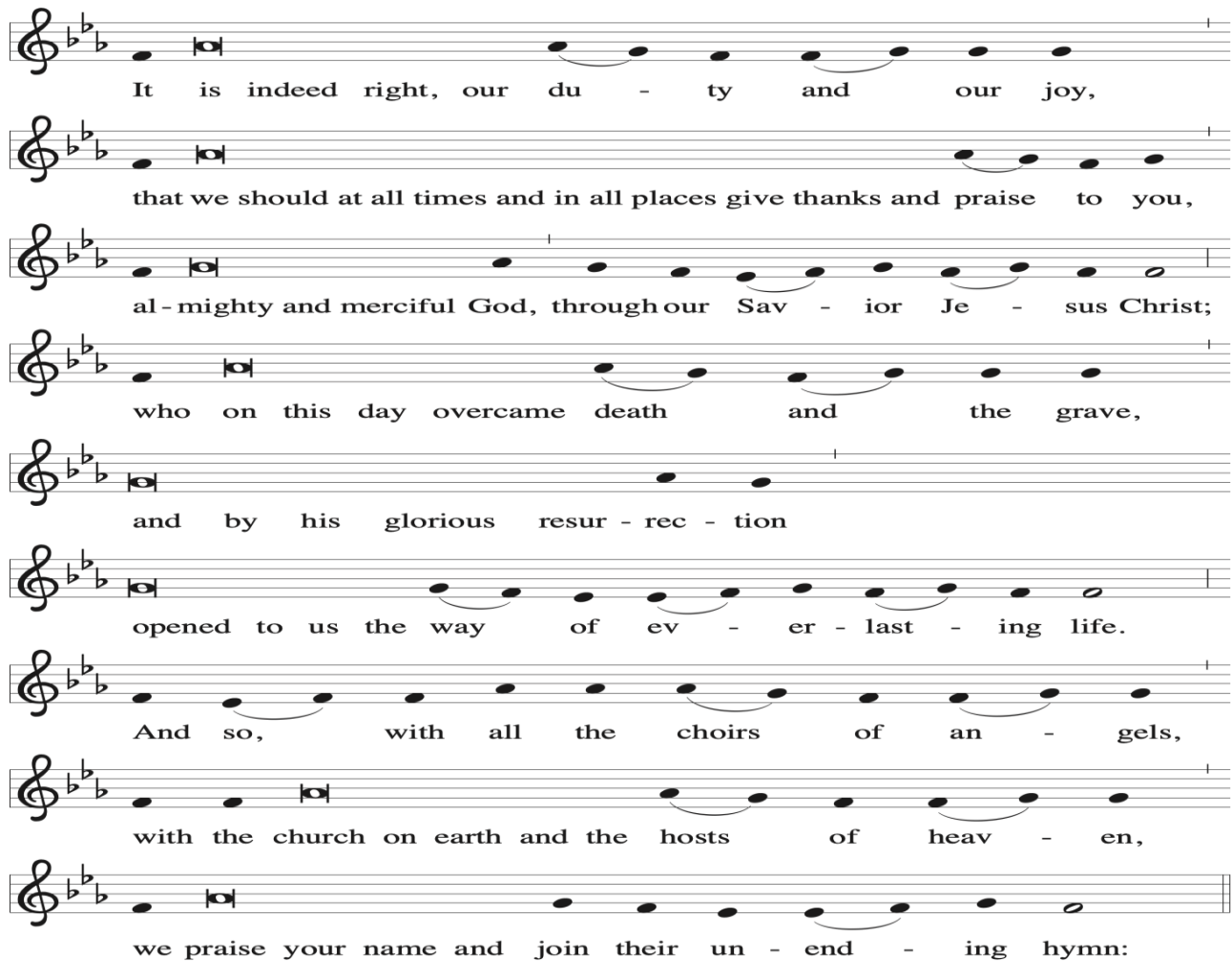
GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Rev. John Michael Barich, Cantor, A cappella



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE: (Rev. Barich Chants, A cappella)

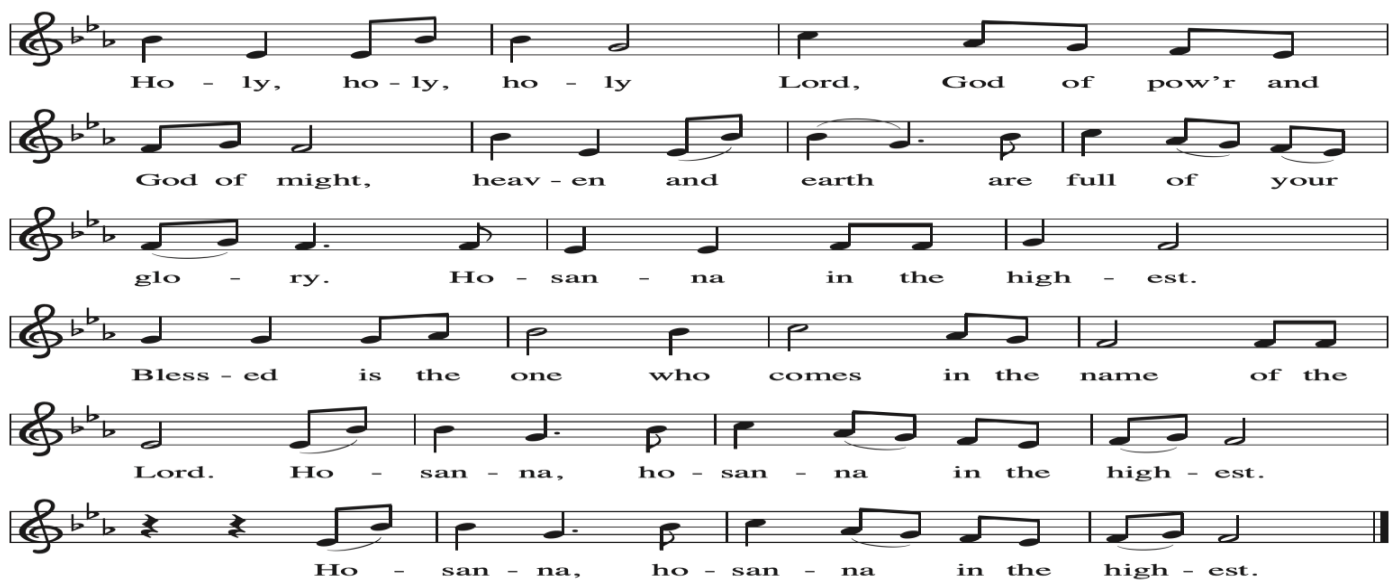


It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY...

ACS, p. 36



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/LORD'S PRAYER/COMMUNION:

P: 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.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

P: **Invitation to Communion:** This is the table, not of this church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little; come, you who have been here often and you who have not been here in a long time. Come, you who have never been before; come, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, not because the church invites you; this is Christ, and he invites you to meet him right here.

Congregation Sits

Communion Hymn #1:

ACS, p. 41

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Communion Hymn #2(next page):

ELW, #335

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

P: Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING:

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever. **C: Amen**

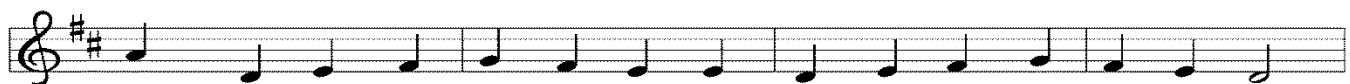
Sending Song:

ELW, #80

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Marita Ericksen

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Worship Assistants Today:

Guest Pastors – Rev. John Michael Barich
Assisting Minister – June Langland
Lector – Patte Wagner
Communion Assistant – Martha Gebhard
Usher – Jim Dam
Musician – Marita Ericksen
Communion Set Up – Martha Gebhard

Worship Assistants next Sunday (9/21/2025):

Guest Pastor – Rev. John Michael Barich
Assisting Minister – June Langland
Lector – Will Forrester
Communion Assistant – TBA
Usher – Jim Dam
Musician – Marita Ericksen
Communion Set Up – TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Rev. John Michael Barich, for participating in worship today!

Sunday Bible study group today, Sept. 7, 9:45 – 10:15 AM, will be led by Roger Gebhard.

Kathleen Odekirk, a long-time member of VLC, passed away on Aug. 13. Her graveside/columbarium service will be Sat., Oct. 18, at 11:00 AM at the Vashon Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. Cards may be sent to: Kim Odekirk, 13028 25th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125.

Contact Gail Larson (206/852-4967) with your prayer requests.

IFCH Dinner Program - VLC provides hand out meals at Vashon Presbyterian Church at 5:00 PM the fourth Thurs. of the month. Contact Cheryl Weise: cheryl.weise@gmail.com.

The Care Closet, Medical Equipment/Supplies – 206-473-8715. Vashon Care Network – 206-473-8715.
Email: contact@vashoncarenetwork.org; website: www.vashoncarenetwork.org

VCN FAMILY CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP - Vashon Care Network invites you to join other family caregivers in a safe, supportive space to share the experience of caregiving. Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 PM at VLC. ?? Call Tory Hayes, 206.304-4544, victoriansmith@comcast.net.

The Vashon Old Friends Club will officially open at the Presbyterian Church, Wednesday, Sept. 17. The Club is a place of fun and friendship for adults with memory loss or cognitive change. It provides a healthy break for their caregivers. It will be offered **every Weds., 9:30 am– 2:30 pm**. Together, coordinators will craft each day around art, games, gentle exercise, music, and good food to engage members' strengths, and foster community, friendship, and joy. As we move into fall, we'll update the larger community about the Old Friends Club. If you are a caregiver or know someone with cognitive challenges and want to learn more, please submit a **Program Interest Form** available on the Vashon Care Network website: www.vashoncarenetwork.org. **Volunteers** are a key element of program success. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Lauretta Hyde, laurettahyde721@gmail.com.

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

SUNDAY

1st
9:45 AM – 10:15 AM
10:30 AM
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Food Bank Sunday
Bible Study w/ Roger Gebhard
Worship Service
AA Group

MONDAY

4th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

VCN Board Meeting

TUESDAY

2nd, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
3rd, 10:00 AM – noon

Quilt Sewers Group
Vashon Quilting Group

WEDNESDAY

1st, 9:00 AM – noon

Lutheran Quilters Group

THURSDAY

Sept. 25, 5:00 PM
6:30-7:30 PM

IFCH Dinner at Vashon Presbyterian Church
VCN Family Caregivers Support Group at VLC

FRIDAY

7:00 – 8:30 PM

AA Group for Men

SATURDAY

September 20, 3:00 PM

VLC Council Meeting, In Person



Vashon Lutheran Church

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Tuesday – Friday noon – 3 PM

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Hymns for September 14, 2025

ELW, 338

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW, 651, v. 1-4

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

DRM, 250

God of Stars and Distant Planets

ELW, 335

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW, 802

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus