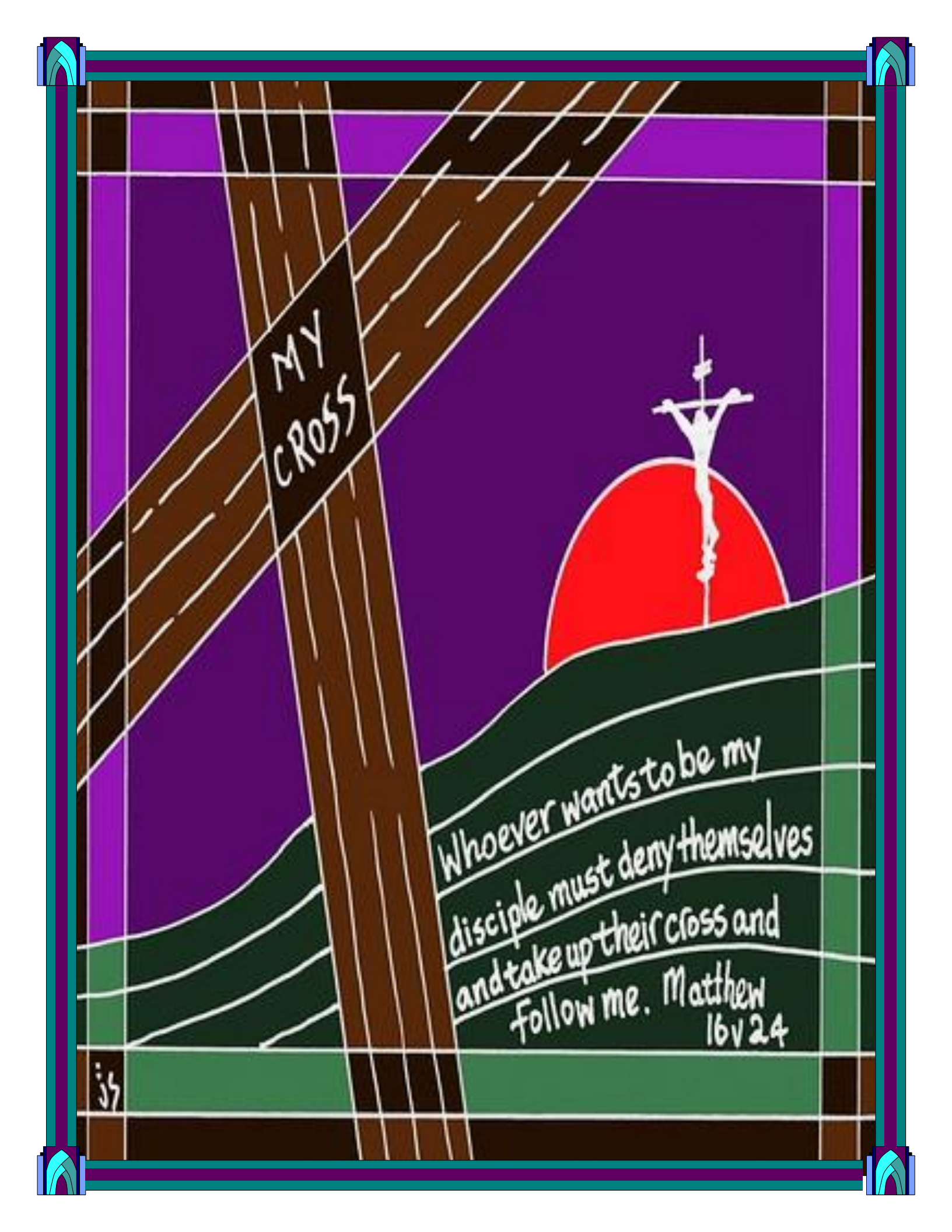


A stained glass illustration featuring a large, dark brown cross on the left side. The cross has the words "MY CROSS" written on it in white, stylized capital letters. To the right of the cross, a bright red sun is rising over a dark green, wavy horizon. A white silhouette of a person is on the cross. The background is a deep purple. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border with teal and purple sections and small arched motifs at the corners.

MY
CROSS

Whoever wants to be my
disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and
follow me. Matthew
16 v 24

14th Weekend after Pentecost

August 29 & 30, 2026

AS WE GATHER

The time of changing seasons is a good time to begin an outdoor regimen of walking for personal wellness. Experts in the field of fitness have documented that going for a walk outdoors can bring a sense of physical betterment and mental calmness to those who engage in it on a regular basis. In the Scriptures there are numerous passages that underscore the value of spiritual walking for the Christian as well. Paul writes to the Galatians, "But I say, walk by the Spirit" (5:16), and he reminds the believers in Christ at Corinth that "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Hymn writers give poetic expression to that special walking in texts like "Let us ever walk with Jesus" (LSB 685:1) and "I want to walk as a child of the light" (LSB 411:1). May we be blessed by our walking through the Divine Service together this day!

PRELUDE

"Lift High the Cross"

Paul D. Weber

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

(The congregation stands at the ringing of the bell.)

OPENING HYMN

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Je - sus, keep me near the cross, There a pre - cious foun - tain,
Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
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 Shed His 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 ri - ver.

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.

| INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

| CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Service of the Word

| CHANTING THE PSALM

Psalm 26



Pastor: Vindicate me, O Lord,
for I have walked in my in- | tegrity,*
and I have trusted in the Lord without | wavering.
Prove me, O Lord, and | try me;*
test my heart | and my mind.

**People: For Your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes,*
and I walk in Your | faithfulness.
I do not sit with men of | falsehood,*
nor do I consort with | hypocrites.**

Pastor: I hate the assembly of evil- | doers,*
and I will not sit with the | wicked.

I wash my hands in | innocence*
and go around Your altar, | O Lord,

People: **proclaiming thanksgiving | aloud,***
and telling all Your | wondrous deeds.
O Lord, I love the habitation | of Your house*
and the place where Your | glory dwells.

Pastor: Do not sweep my soul away with | sinners,*
nor my life with blood- | thirsty men,
in whose hands are evil de- | vices,*
and whose right hands are | full of bribes.

People: **But as for me, I shall walk in my in- | tegrity;***
redeem me, and be gra- | cious to me.
My foot stands on | level ground;*
in the great assembly I will | bless the Lord

All: *Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* And to the Holy | Spirit;*
*As it was in the be- | ginning, * is now, and will be forever. | Amen.*

| GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Page 204



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart-felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, embraced the way of the cross to redeem us. Grant us faith to embrace the way of the cross as our way of life and to declare His redemptive presence to our world; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

| OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

O Lord, You know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In Your forbearance take me not away; know that for Your sake I bear reproach. Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by Your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because Your hand was upon me, for You had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will You be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? Therefore thus says the Lord: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before Me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as My mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

| EPISTLE READING

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so

far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

| ALLELUIA

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| HOLY GOSPEL

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 16:20-28

Then He strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that He was the Christ. From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Old Rugged Cross"



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross,
 2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world,
 3 In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
 4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true;



The em - blem of suf - fring and shame;
 Has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
 Such a won - der - ful beau - ty I see;
 Its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear.



And I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
 For the dear Lamb of God left His glo - ry a - bove
 For 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died
 Then He'll call me some - day to my home far a - way,



For a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 To bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
 To par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 Where His glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Refrain



So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged cross, Till my tro-phies at last I lay



down; I will cling to the old rug - ged



cross, And ex - change it some - day for a crown.

SERMON

“Like It Was in Days of Old”

Pastor Owen Duncan

Text: Matthew 16:20-28

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

*We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

Prayer Requests: Please print prayer requests on the blue “Prayer” card and hand it to an usher during this time.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Rugged Cross”

Mark Hayes

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 forever and ever. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

| PREFACE (5:00)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

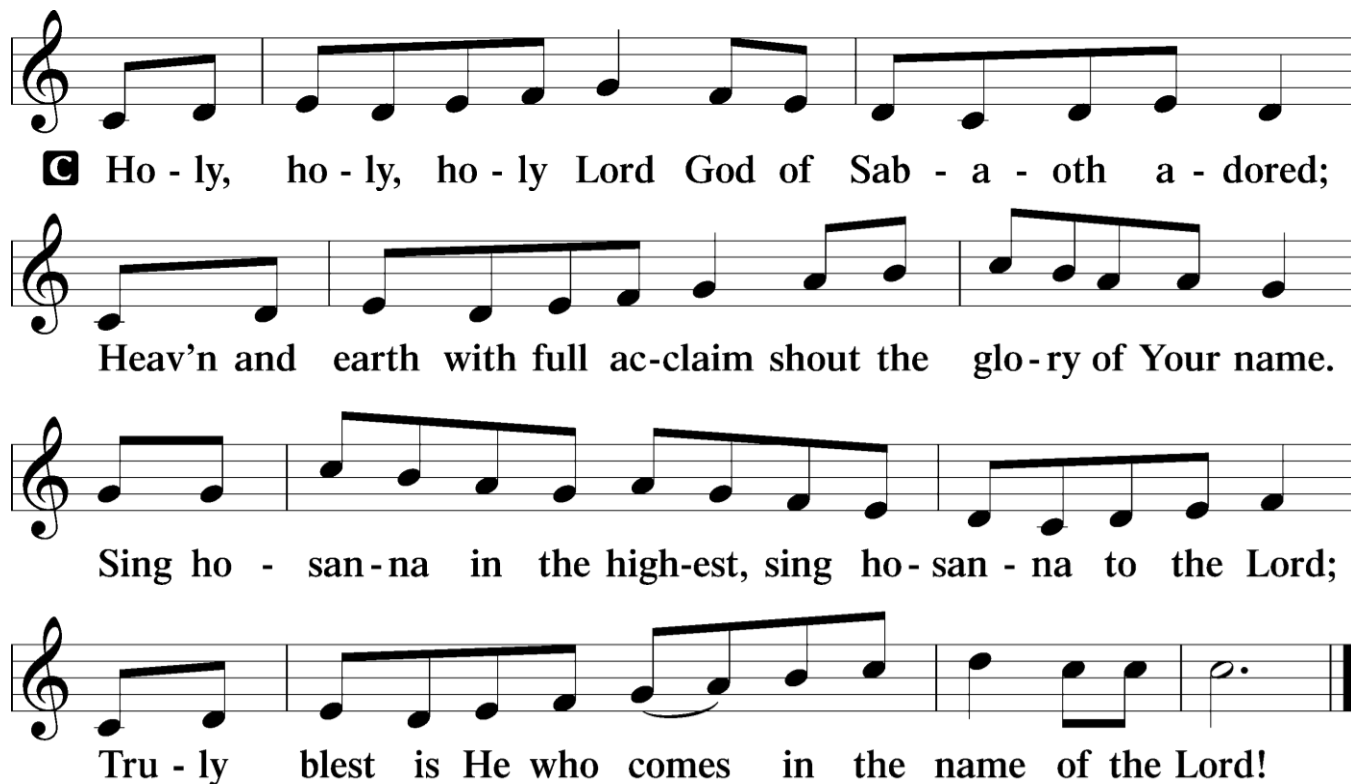
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. We rejoice in His call to discipleship, taking up our crosses and joyfully following in His way. Confident of our Savior's gracious leading and rejoicing in the company of the saints on earth and those above, we laud and magnify Your holy name:

| SANCTUS (5:00)

Page 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

| WORDS OF OUR LORD (5:00)

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

| PAX DOMINI (5:00)

Page 209

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

People: Amen.

| AGNUS DEI (5:00)

Page 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION (5:00)

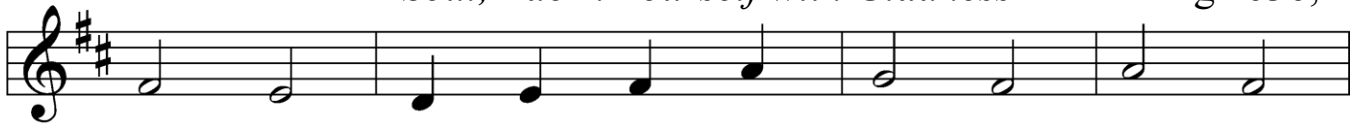
*Whoever takes Holy Communion here confesses the teachings of this congregation.
1 Corinthians 11:26*

If you do not agree with or do not know what we teach, you may still come to the rail – simply cross your arms as a sign that you do not wish to commune at this time. For more information, see our statement in the front of the hymnal or talk to a pastor.

COMMUNION HYMN (5:00)

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Page 636, vs. 1-4



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless You and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD look on you in favor and ✠ give you peace.

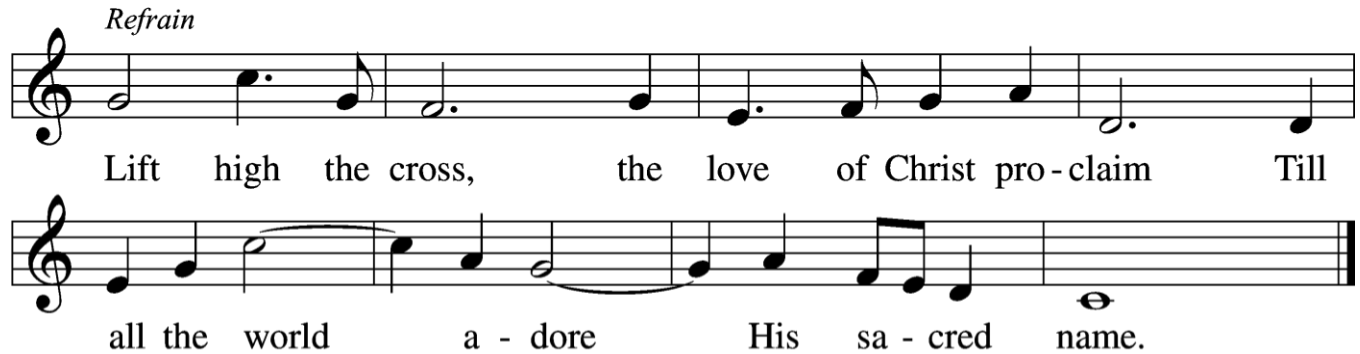
People: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

Page 837, vs. 1-4

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com-bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

POSTLUDE

OFFERTORY INFORMATION

George Bennard initially struggled to write some appropriate lyrics to this beloved hymn, but it started to take shape when Bennard would reaffirm to himself, “I’ll cherish the old rugged cross.” Years later, he would return from several preaching engagements to his home — 1101 E. Michigan Ave., Albion, Michigan — with a renewed meaning of the cross etched in his mind and heart. This time, the lyrics came to him easily. Before long, he was calling his wife, Ariminda, into the kitchen and singing his completed hymn for her. “*The Old Rugged Cross*” was finally finished. This arrangement starts in the style of the great romantics, like Rachmaninoff, to underscore the agony of the cross. The heaviness of the beginning minor key reminds us of the suffering of crucifixion. When the key center shifts to a major tonality, it speaks of the joy that awaits us in heaven, where we will forever share His glory.