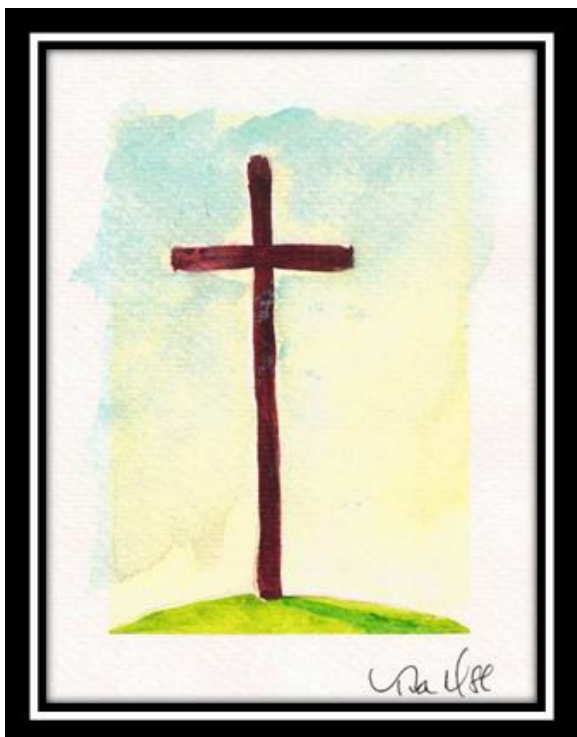




Cover artwork by member Tina Morse

Holy Cross Day
September 14, A+D 2025



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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DIVINE SERVICE

Setting 1 – Page 151

Lutheran Service Book

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus” (John 12:21). Then look to His holy cross. For just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, so Jesus, when He is “lifted up from the earth, will draw all people” to Himself (John 12:32). “He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” to save us (Phil. 2:8). “Everyone who is bitten” by the ancient serpent’s venom of sin, “when he sees” Christ “shall live” (Num. 21:8). The true holy cross is lost to history, and we cannot return to Calvary to find our salvation. So, Christ brings the New Testament in His blood to us. “We preach Christ crucified the power of God and the wisdom of God,” though foolishness to the unbelieving world (1 Cor. 1:23–24). It pleases God, “through the folly” of the cross we preach, “to save those who believe” (1 Cor. 1:21). We find the fruit and benefit of this holy cross poured out in Holy Baptism, spoken in the preaching of Holy Absolution, and delivered in the body and blood given and shed there for us. Thus are we strengthened to take up our crosses, sanctified by His (John 12:25–26). *Ring of the Bells*

Ring of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

455 The Royal Banners Forward Go*Tune LSB 571**Stand**The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.***Invocation**

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation*LSB 151*

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.***Confession of Sins***LSB 151*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Absolution*151*

- P** 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.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 98:1, 4, 6; antiphon: v. 2

- P** The LORD has made known his salvation;
C **he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
C **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**
P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
C **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
P With trumpets and the sound of the horn
C **make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
P The LORD has made known his salvation;
C **he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Kyrie

152

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



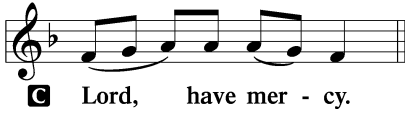
- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

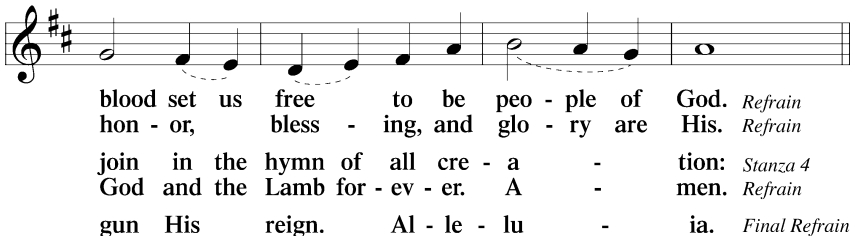
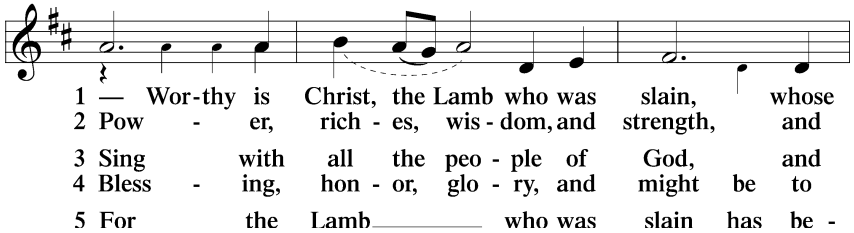


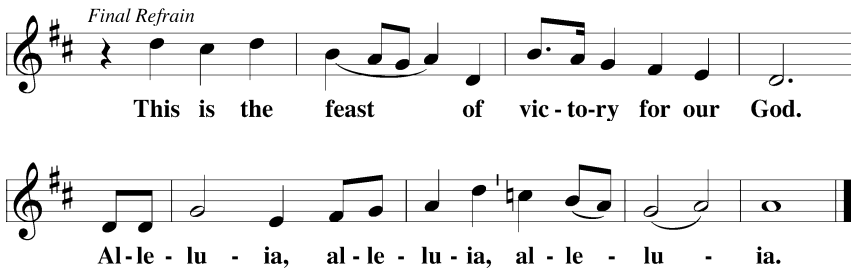
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



This Is the Feast

LSB 155





Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

A The Old Testament Reading for Holy Cross Day is from the twenty-first chapter of Numbers the Fourth Book of Moses.

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And 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 loathe this worthless food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

A The Second Reading is from the first chapter of the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

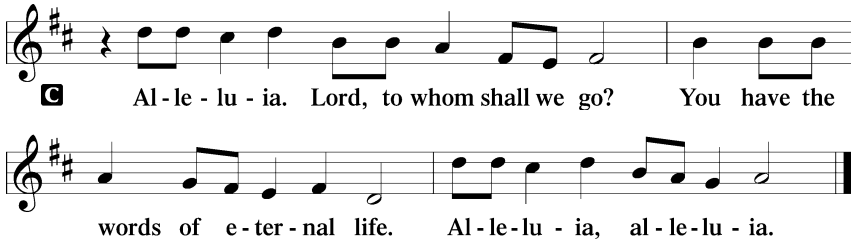
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse*LSB 156***Holy Gospel***John 12:20–33*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.



²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

159

C 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.

Sit

Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

If you are submitting a prayer request on a prayer card, kindly hand it directly to the usher. Do not place it into the offering plate.

Stand

955 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80

Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010

Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001510

Prayer of the Church

159

- P** . . . Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

160

- P** The Lord be with you.

- C** And al - so 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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** 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."

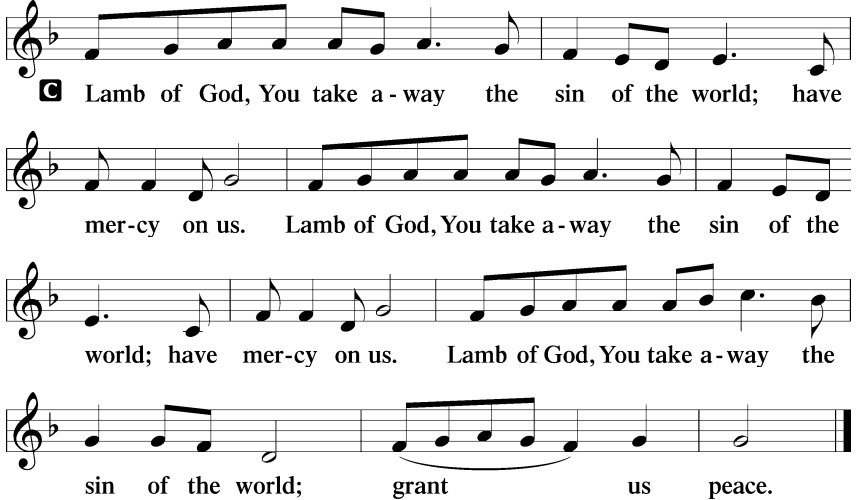
Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Agnus Dei**

LSB 163



Sit

Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood

Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.

Silent Prayer Just Before Communing: Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer Just After Communing: *Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace the forgiveness of sins unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

Stand

The Communion Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

G Amen.

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



G Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy

You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You
and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.



Benediction

166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



837 Lift High the Cross

sts. ref-6

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Prayer of the church is adapted from "Let us Pray" a service of the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Lutherans love the Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we thank and praise His Holy Name for the life and salvation He obtained for us by His Sacrifice upon that Cross. But we're not always quite sure what to make of "Holy Cross Day" on the 14th of September, although it is one of the oldest and most widely spread observances of the Church. The origins of this festival day can seem rather convoluted and even suspect, and questions are often asked as to how the occasion differs from Good Friday.

As Lutherans, we're not especially concerned with traditions concerning the historical artifact of the Cross (whether actual or mistaken), since we are blessed to receive the very fruits and benefits of the Holy Cross in the preaching and ministry of the Gospel, in the waters of Holy Baptism, and in the Body and Blood of Christ Jesus. Nor is Holy Cross Day observed among us as a repetition of Good Friday, even though we are, of course, always concerned with the preaching and confession of the Cross of Christ the Crucified, proclaiming His death until He comes in glory for the final judgment (1 Cor. 1:18—2:2; 11:26).

Holy Cross Day is rather an opportunity to revel in the glory and victory of the Cross, in spite of how it looks and feels to the world (and to our own fallen flesh!). Outside the sober penitence of Holy Week, we are able to exult in the triumph of the Cross as the self-sacrifice of the Son of God for our salvation. For by His death He conquered death, atoned for sin, and trampled Satan's vile head beneath His feet; and as He was lifted up in death upon the Cross once-for-all, so does He call people from all nations to Himself by the preaching of His Cross, to die and rise with Him by faith in His Gospel of forgiveness.



Reprinted from the website of



The Glad Spirit

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

September 14, 2025

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

Michelle Michels

Cassandra Michels

Steven & Laurie Michels

Bill & Lydia Middleton, Family Brianna, Coral, Ocean, Marina

BIRTHDAYS

Mary Sella, 9/15

Tracy Gribbin, 9/16

Dominic Ramirez, 9/17

Antonio Ramirez, 9/20

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Levi Robinson, 9/14

Jeanette Ramirez, 9/19



SPECIAL CONCERNS

Pray for Janice Abel, Dean Bloom, Sandy Bodza, Sondra Budde, Jay Carey, Pastor Collins, Carmen Dampier, Judy Diekleman, Shirley Emerick, Latricia Harris, Ed Hoeksema Jr., Chester Orendorff, Violet Rich, Bill Sommer, Dolly Tagenhorst, Warren & Chris Van Mynen, Jean and Gene Wiltjer, Ray and Madelaine Zander.

Serving in the Military – Austin Brandy, Jessica Calderon-Phillips, Dakota Gaut and Nathan Lopez.

Serving as First Responders – David Allen, Dave Bloom, Nathan Conway, Brianne Giba, Melanie Hudson, Brian Orth, Dana Tatgenhorst, Taylor VanDommelen and Dan Zander.

Receiving Hospice this past week – Jay Carey



NEWS UPDATE

Contact the office to share a personal testimonial about what God has done for you. Or original art that is inspirational or humorous to the artist.



St. Paul Book Club will meet on Wednesday October 8th at 10:00 am, to review a book to be announced. We always welcome new members. We enjoy fellowship and lunch following the discussion.

Christ For You the week of September 14th on KFUE.org: We're studying the minor prophets on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT)! This week, we'll be spending time in the book of Jonah. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we continue our series on the return of Israel's exiles. This week's study will take us through Nehemiah 5-9. Don't forget to tune in to Concord Matters this Saturday (9/20 at 10 a.m. CT)! We'll be studying the 8th commandment as confessed in the Large Catechism. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfue.org or in the KFUE Radio app!

The Week of September 14th Book of Proverbs Bible Study... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon recently started a study on the Book of Proverbs. You can listen at your convenience at thewordendures.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, Tune In, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

We'd love to see you in worship. Our worship services are every Sunday at 9:30 AM. If you are unable to attend it can be viewed on Facebook live at www.facebook.com/splcms/videos. A previous recording is also available. Bulletins for the services are available for viewing or download on our website at www.splcms.org/worship.

"If we expect to be the one to change hearts by sowing seeds of judgment rather than love, we are changing the mission we have been sent to fulfill. Please use your Gospel-motivated voice For Life in love and may God bless your efforts!" Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

The Power of His Love

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:32 (NIV)

Based on John 12:28-33 (NIV)



R D I E H L T I F E D F M H Q
 E N Q T D F I M P W X D Q E D
 I J R V L S M S O O M N U M N
 M A U E P F E R C G H E A R D
 E O S D R A C X K U R X X M Z
 W Y X G G W E C L E A P K Z E
 M O I J K E T H D D R A W C V
 F X R R J T M N S H O W V W H
 A W E L B F U E V M V A X C T
 T Z W B D H P O N R A O W F B
 H U V O T P E R R T W N I O J
 E D P E H P W A I V I N G C G
 R I W A O I M T V N V K V E E
 C A G L O R I F Y E C M V L L
 W F G B L I F T E D N E Y Q F

WORLD
 ANGEL
 VOICE
 JUDGEMENT

DIE
 HEAVEN
 FATHER
 DRAW

TIME
 MYSELF
 GLORIFY
 EARTH

HEARD
 LIFTED
 PRINCE
 THUNDER

CROWD
 MEN
 SHOW
 NAME

GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION



ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

Attendance 16, 15 Communed, XXX Online

Envelopes	\$970.00	Weekly Missions	\$45.00
General Fund	\$175.00	Luth. Church Charity	10.00
		Church Maint	20.00
		Social Ministry	75.00
Budgeted Total	1,145.00	Non-budgeted Total	\$150.00
Offering Needed	1,423.00		
Short	\$-278.00		



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &...
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &...

SERVANT SCHEDULE

	Sun, Sep 14, 9:30 AM	Sun, Sep 21, 9:30 AM
Pastor	Pastor Klein	Pastor Rock
Lay Reader	Tracy Middleton	Micci Orth



Food Pantry



General Fund



splcms.org