



SERVICE OF THE WORD

FESTIVAL OF THE HOLY CROSS (OBSERVED)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

■ Bishop ■ Assisting Minister ■ All

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

■ In the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

■ Amen.

■ God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

■ Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ Amen.

*Opening Hymn**Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

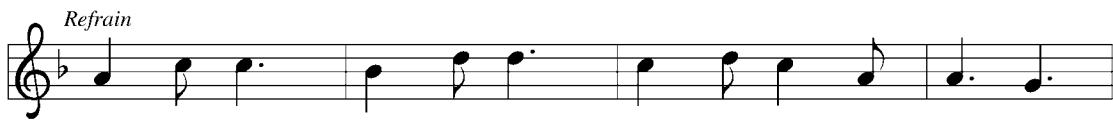
ELW #335



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.



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

Apostolic Greeting & Prayer of the Day

- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
■ And also with you.

- Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

- 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.

- Amen.

HEARING THE WORD

First Reading

A A reading from 1 Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

For 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 scribe? 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 our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand 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.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

How Great Thou Art (refrain)

ELW #856

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou
art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to
thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
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Gospel

John 3:13-17

- Ⓑ The Holy Gospel according to John.
Ⓒ Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

- Ⓑ The Gospel of the Lord.
Ⓒ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

*The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr, Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA*

Hymn of the Day

There in God's Garden (v. 1, 2, 4, & 6)

ELW #342

1 There in God's garden
stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth
the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge,
Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.

2 Its name is Jesus,
name that says, "Our Savior!"
There on its branches
see the scars of suff'ring;
see where the tendrils
of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.

4 See how its branches
reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says,
"Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness,
give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing."

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

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Creed

A Living together in trust and hope, we confess our baptismal faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

- Ⓐ Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.
- Ⓐ You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes, youth, young adult and senior ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,
- Ⓒ hear our prayer.
- Ⓐ The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. We pray for those who are fighting the wildfires in the western United States as well as those who grieve the loss of loved ones, home and livelihood. Lord, in your mercy,
- Ⓒ hear our prayer.
- Ⓐ Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. We pray for governmental and humanitarian leaders in Delaware, Maryland, and across the United States, in Ethiopia and the Holy Land. Lord, in your mercy,
- Ⓒ hear our prayer.
- Ⓐ Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,
- Ⓒ hear our prayer.

A Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make of us a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. We remember those who lost their lives on 9-11 and those who continue to grieve. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

A Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Thanksgiving for the Word

B Let us give thanks for the Word:

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Brighten our paths, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

B 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;

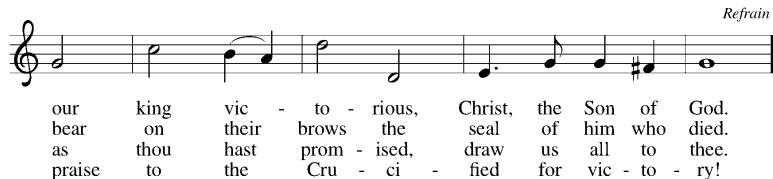
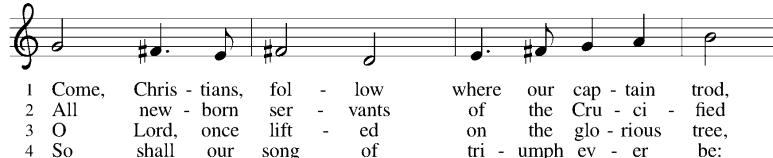
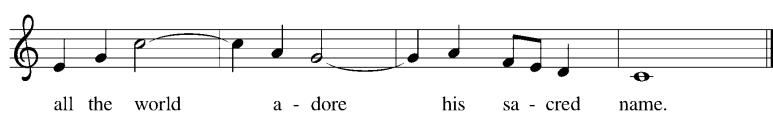
In the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Sending Song

Lift High the Cross

ELW #660



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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Dismissal

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Bishop

The Rev. Bill Gohl
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

Assisting Minister &
Cantor

The Rev. Tamika Jancewicz, Associate Pastor
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, MD

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