



St. Luke's

Episcopal Church

Holy Eucharist II

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2026

10:00 am



A Meditation for Holy Cross Day

Galatians 6:14-18

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule-- peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.



Entry into Worship



✠ Opening Acclamation ✠

Blessed be God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

O bless the Lord, my soul

Hymnal, #411

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Children depart for Children's Chapel



The Lessons



Old Testament

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

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

Psalm 114

¹ Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

² Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel his dominion.

³ The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back.

⁴ The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep.

⁵ What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back?

⁶ You mountains, that you skipped like rams? you little hills like young sheep?

⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸ Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

New Testament

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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



Gospel Hymn

O worship the King, all glorious above

Hymnal, #388 (vs. 1)



The Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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



Conversational Sermon

The Rev. Dr. David Gortner
and Reese Johnson



The Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*



The Prayers of the People



Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Concluding Collect

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*



Confession and Absolution of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Children return from Children's Chapel



The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Greet one another with the peace of Christ.



Announcements



Offering



Offertory Anthem

Praise to the Lord

Robert J. Hughes

(from Anthems for Limited Choirs pg. 24-27)

Offertory Hymn

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Hymnal, #469



The Holy Eucharist



✠ The Great Thanksgiving ✠

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us adore the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We praise and adore you with all our hearts and minds and strength, O God, for from the very beginning you delighted in your creation. You exulted to play among your sons and daughters. You urged our universe into being, breathing life into the void, and, over primal waters, sending out your Word to call forth the creatures of the deep.

You filled us, also, with your breath of life. Our bodies move in harmony of movement with all that surrounds us. In the dance of creation, the world joins with your Spirit and anticipates the fulfillment of your presence.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

Let the trees clap their hands, and the rivers sing with joy.

You set us a place in this your garden of delight, where we could take our part in creation. And now, in gratitude, in deep gratitude, we join our voices with all your creatures in ceaseless song:

Sanctus

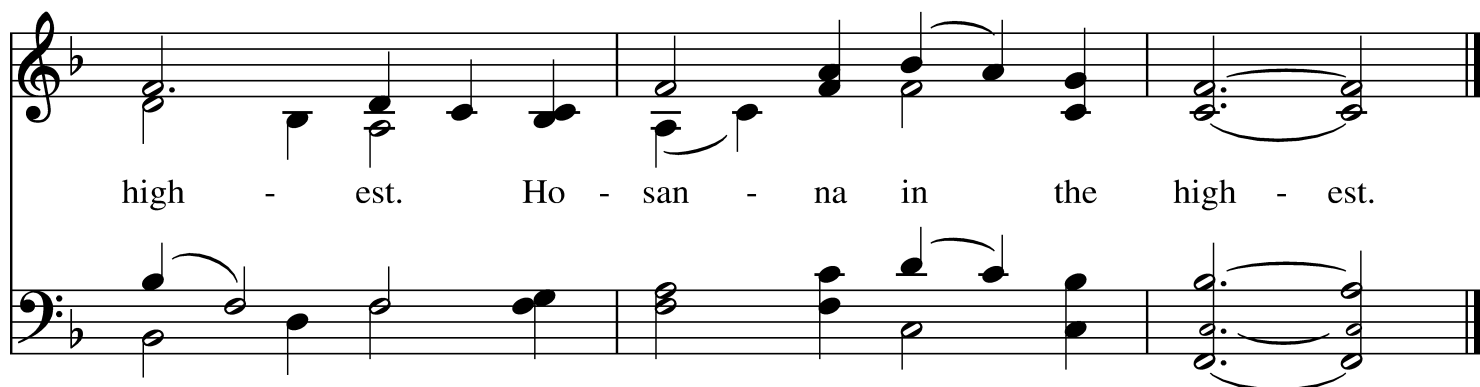
WLP, #858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



Music: American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner, harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).



Holy and Divine Lover, you have never ceased to bless us, and shower us with gifts. You formed us in your image. You gave us the breath of life, the power to know, the ability to delight, and the desire to share with creation in your abundance.

But how often we have betrayed you, and squandered your gifts! How often we have deceived ourselves, and hurt one another! We sought only after ourselves, and we tried to possess what we were meant to enjoy, leaving us without happiness, fulfillment, or passion.

Yet, though we are daily unfaithful to you, you have never abandoned us. Daily you have searched us out and called to us. And when we could only see you as Judge, remote and unapproachable, you came to us tender and vulnerable. You lured us again and again to rekindle our love for you and your creation. You have never abandoned us.

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.

Through the ages, you have endured our fickleness, as we turn against each other, as we refuse you, as we search for you, lonely but arrogant and despising of ourselves. Dining with Abraham and Sarah, wrestling through the night with Jacob and calling Moses to approach you on bare feet, in ever-new ways you continued to pledge yourself to us. With a shielding cloud in the heat of day and a fiery light in the darkness, you journeyed with your chosen people Israel through the wilderness.

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.

To consummate your love for us, your very Word of invitation became flesh, conceived in Mary's womb as Jesus, your child. You held Mary, body and soul, in your embrace, bringing forth in her the fullness of Delight in the birth of Jesus. Jesus lived among us. He ate and drank with us, in our greatest joys and deepest woes. His only rebuke for the arrogant and proud, Jesus turned none aside from his care.

We rejected him in the body, nailing him to a tree. But you triumphed over us, and raised him bodily from the dead. And our salvation was won.

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.

What gift can we give in return? You gave your only child, that we might have life. We offer you ourselves, our souls and bodies. And we set this table: Bread and Wine for us to share.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we declare the great mystery of love:

Christ you dwelt among us.

Christ you died at our hands.

Christ you rose again.

Christ we long for your return.

Divine love, Holy wisdom, Author and Source of all, come down upon this meal of bread and wine. Move over it in a new creation. By your Holy Spirit, make this bread and wine the gift of your presence, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Embrace your people, O God.

Praise to you, O Lord, for the goodness of this food and drink. As we take the bread on our tongue, the wine to our lips, we ask you to feed us with your presence, now known to our senses. By your Holy Spirit, make us also holy, that we may receive your gifts without shame or anxiety, and be united with you and one another through this Sacrament of your Love.

Embrace your people, O God.

May your redemption spread from this feast across the whole creation, that all may be made new, clean, and holy in You. Draw us again to live beneath your shadow, that we and all creation may flourish as a garden and blossom like the vine.

As grain was scattered over the hillsides and then was brought together and made one in this bread, so let all your people be brought together from the ends of the earth into your Kingdom.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you, our God and Creator, in voices of unending praise.

Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

LEVAS, #269

Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: Lena McLin, *Eucharist of the Soul*
Reprinted from *Eucharist of the Soul* (GC41)
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The Bread is broken

Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst, says the Lord.

Words of Invitation

Eat, my friends, and drink, and be filled with joy and love.

Communion

Communion Hymns

Let us break bread together

LEVAS, #152

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

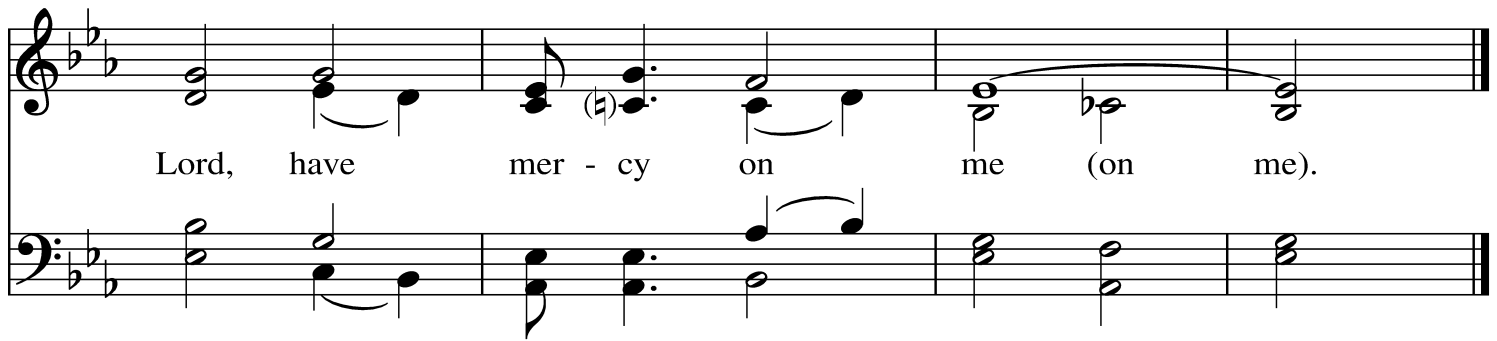
1. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, Oh— Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).

Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh—



Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. Arr. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

Day by day

Hymnal, #654

Prayer after Communion

*Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth into the world as a people forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*



Sending into the World



Hymn

Crown him with many crowns

Hymnal, #494

Blessing and Dismissal

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. *Thanks be to God.*

The Liturgy is drawn from a combination of sources:

*The Book of Common Prayer (Rite II); The Book of Occasional Services; Enriching Our Worship;
and adaptations to prayers made by the Rector of St. Luke's.*

The Eucharistic Prayer was written by the Rector of St. Luke's and approved by the Bishop.

Serving Today

Readers
Chalice/Cruet
Acolytes
Ushers
Altar Guild
Technology
Greeter
Children's Chapel

John Empsall, Jean Imperatrice
Deacon Glenda, Kate Dolan
Kate Dolan, Brian Kilmer
Jennifer Gardner, Rod Kalberg
Michelle Johnson
Kristin Keyes
Kari Romeo
Barbara Webb

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Dr. David Gortner
The Rev. Glenda Empsall
Erica Waterman
DeDe Pederson
Eric Betz
Ty Peterson

Rector
Deacon
Lay Minister, Christian Formation
Parish Administrator
Music Director
Organist



Welcome to St. Luke's! We are so glad to have you join us in worship and fellowship. We are a reconciling, affirming and inclusive Christian community. We welcome all people in worship, love and service just as God created them.



God is with you. You are loved. You are welcome here, as we seek to follow Jesus on his Way of Love. Join us as we seek to move deeper in faith, closer in bonds of love, and wider in our sharing, celebrating, and embodying of Jesus' overflowing, unconditional love in North Idaho.

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