

WELCOME TO WORSHIP  
AT  
WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Holy Cross Day*  
*Sunday, September 14th, 2025*

Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead. Please sign our Guest Register and introduce yourself as you leave worship today.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

As the prelude is a time of preparation, please consider quietly meditating on these words of the Psalm during this time of reflection.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)*

### CALL TO WORSHIP *820 O Savior, Precious Savior (Vs 1)*

- 1 O Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love;  
O name of might and favor, all other names above:  
we worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;  
we praise thee and confess thee, our holy Lord and King.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as Pastor begins.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the ☩ Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 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 and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage 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.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the † Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **ENTRANCE HYMN    *432 The Head That Once Was Crowned***

- 1    The head that once was crowned with thorns  
      is crowned with glory now; a royal diadem adorns  
      the mighty victor's brow.
- 2    The highest place that heav'n affords  
      is his by sov'reign right, the King of kings, and Lord of lords,  
      and heav'n's eternal light.
- 3    The joy of all who dwell above,  
      the joy of all below to whom he manifests his love,  
      and grants his name to know;
- 4    To them the cross, with all its shame,  
      with all its grace, is giv'n; their name, an everlasting name,  
      their joy, the joy of heav'n.
- 5    They suffer with their Lord below;  
      they reign with him above; their profit and their joy to know  
      the myst'ry of his love.
- 6    The cross he bore is life and health,  
      though shame and death to him; his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
      their everlasting theme!

### **GREETING**

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 ELW 155

1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.  
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.  
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.  
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. i - son.  
Chris - te e - lei - son. i - son.  
Lord, . . . have mer cy.  
Christ, . . . have mer cy.

## HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest ELW Setting 3 Pg 139*

*Cantor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth*

**All: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father**

**We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray . . . O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## FIRST READING *a reading from Exodus 32:7-14*

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " <sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation." <sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " <sup>14</sup> And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 51:1-10**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)*

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup> **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

- <sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**  
<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.  
<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**SECOND READING *a reading from 1 Timothy 1:12-17***

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW 142 Setting 3***

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal Life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia**

**GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel *according Luke 15:1-10*

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]

<sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave

the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?  
<sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup> "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'  
<sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." This is the Holy Gospel of Our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY 342 *There in God's Garden (Vs 1-4)***

- 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.
- 3 Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.
- 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."

## APOSTLE'S 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*a brief silence.*

A: Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as you people. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, guide us in the ways we care for your world. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Guide them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your Peace. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**



*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain . . . Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **OFFERING/OFFERTORY HYMN 182 *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray . . . **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW Setting 4 Pg 153***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father; endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and at the end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and place and Unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

# 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.**

## COMMUNION

***THE BODY OF CHRIST, GIVEN FOR YOU. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR YOU.***  
*As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our refilled cups containing the wafer and juice or by intinction in the fullness of faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements. One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.*

**COMMUNION SONG** *Lamb of God Setting 3 Pg 146*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross  
806 O God, My Faithful God*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *208 Praise To You, O God of Mercy*

**Praise to you, O God of Mercy, Thanks be to You forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly, Thanks be to You forever!  
Thanks be to You forever!**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son and † Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN 802 *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus***

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy:  
all discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;  
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head,  
we are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be  
in your presence constantly, living there with you forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to me.

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace, Share the Good News!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

