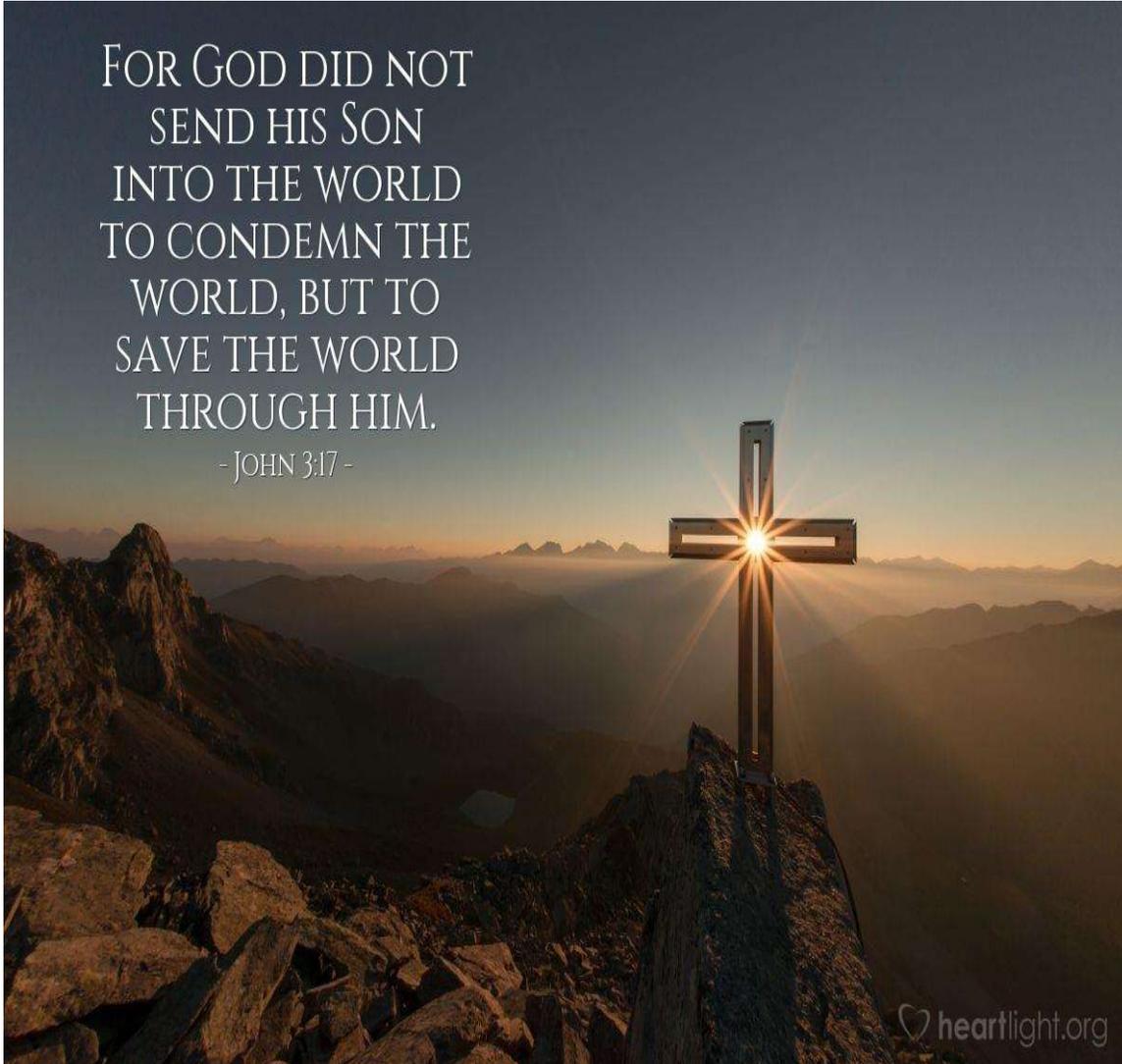




WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST
to Share the Hope of Eternal Life.
Second Sunday in Lent
MARCH 01, 2026

FOR GOD DID NOT
SEND HIS SON
INTO THE WORLD
TO CONDEMN THE
WORLD, BUT TO
SAVE THE WORLD
THROUGH HIM.

- JOHN 3:17 -



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

200 Market Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO.63670

Office Phone 573-883-5361

holycrossstegen@gmail.com

Website: holycrossstegen.org

Facebook: facebook.com/holycrossstegen

Needs for pastoral care in our area, call one of our Elders-

Rick Hutson 573-780-9390,

Randy Ruzicka 314-210-4279 or Wayne Schremp 573-883-6060

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The ringing of the bells starts at 9 a.m. Pastor/Seminarian prepares for a long set of bell tones before walking up to altar.

Words written in **Bold** generally signify congregation response.

The Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We are transformed in Christ

To share the hope of eternal Life.

Welcome, let us stand and share the sign of peace and conversation.

Sit

Confession and Absolution

901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P 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.

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

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 105:4–7; antiphon: v. 8

He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

**Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

**O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.

**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.**

He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

Kyrie

LSB 204



G Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1–9

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 3:1–17

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.

(I) Individual Verse Review for the Sermon Passage

Homily

Pastor Jarold Rux

For today's prayer requests, please write them on the attendance card provided during the service. Once completed, fold the card and either hand it to an usher or place it in the offertory plate. The Pastor or Seminarian will include these requests during the Prayers of the Church.

We honor the Lord with our tithes and our gifts. Please Stand as the offering is brought forward and sing

Stand

Three ways to give:

- 1) offering plate—cash or check.
- 2) online at holycrossstegen.org • Click the “Give” icon.
- 3) by mail.

956 Create in Me (intro)

Psalm 51:10-12

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church —Second Sunday in Lent March 01,2026

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O God, You have graciously given us a new birth in the waters of Holy Baptism. Sustain our faith in You and turn us from the old things of the flesh, that we would fix our eyes on the Son of Man through faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, Your Son, Jesus, came to teach us the way of truth. Sustain all pastors in this sacred calling. Give them patience to teach the faith to all who question the way of salvation, and raise up teachers of righteousness in every generation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You made Your servant Abraham the father of us all through faith, and You have given all fathers the calling of Abraham to hand down the Gospel of Christ. Fill their hearts with the words of Christ, and remember them according to Your great mercy. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have established rulers and earthly authorities to protect us. Bless Donald, our president; _____, our governor; the Congress of the United States; the legislature of this state; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Help us to preserve our liberty and use its gift wisely in the pursuit of justice and for the welfare of all people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You sent forth Your own Son to heal and give everlasting life. By Your Word and Spirit, lift up Your people from their sorrows. Heal them according to Your gracious will, and deliver them from the pain of death to eternal life. [*Hear us, we pray, especially for _____.*] Sustain them in their afflictions, comfort them in the hour of death and raise up the dead according to Your gracious promise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Lord, Nicodemus was led by the word of Jesus to the cross, and from the cross he received the body of Jesus. Grant us faith like his to trust Your Word and receive Christ's body and blood in the Holy Sacrament for forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You gave Abraham the promise of many descendants. Give us faith, that we may delight in this promise, delivered through the ages and kept in Christ, our Savior. Equip us with Your Spirit to be bold and unwavering witnesses, carrying Your name and Your Gospel to every place and people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gracious Father, Grant to this congregation the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a Pastor according to Your will for Holy Cross church, Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 208



☐ 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!
Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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 T 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 T 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei (intro)

LSB 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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

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

C **Amen.**

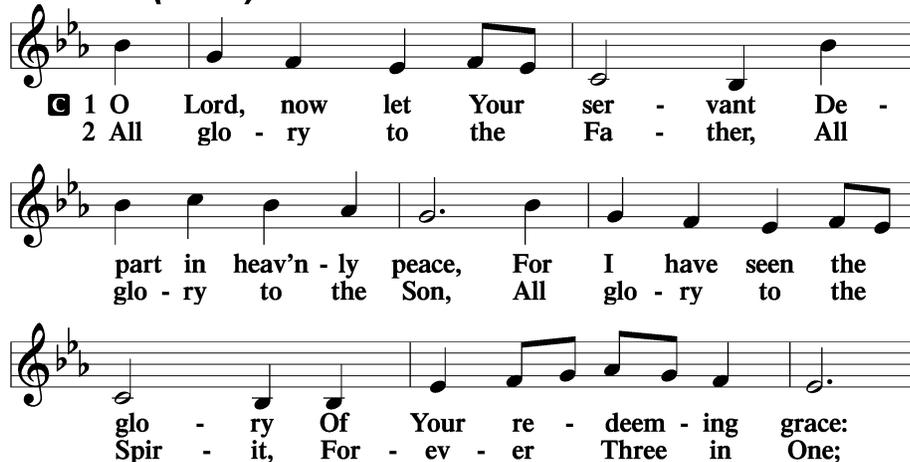
433 Glory Be to Jesus

431 Not All the Blood of Beasts

Stand

Nunc Dimittis (intro)

LSB 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

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.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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 T give you peace.

C Amen.

702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87

Sit

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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MARCH/APRIL EVENTS

**The fresh flower arrangement on the altar,
given by Linda Trimmer this Sunday.
The occasion, Frances Krueger's Birthday.**

March 6th and on 13th Immanuel Lutheran PTL Fish Fry

Immanuel Lutheran School Gym is where you will find delicious catfish, potato chip fries, baked beans, coleslaw, homemade cookies and desserts starting time is 4:30 to 7:30. Adults \$12.00 dine in or carry out available, skip the line make phone call to place your order 573 547 6161
Proceeds go to the school fund.

March 14: Trinity Lutheran Church Trivia Night

Trinity Lutheran Church in Friedheim, MO, presents Lual Trivia Night at the Jackson Civic Center (381 E Deerwood Dr., Jackson, MO). The evening includes a silent auction, food, and raffles. Doors open at 4:30 PM; trivia begins at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$40 each or \$320 for a table of eight (meal included).

March 13-22: "The Taming of Judge Roy Bean" Performance

Salem Adults in Christ presents "The Taming of Judge Roy Bean" on March 13 (7:00 PM), March 15 (5:00 PM), March 21 (7:00 PM), and March 22 (5:00 PM) at Salem Lutheran Gym (299 PCR 328, Farrar, MO 63747). Admission is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. Concessions, including pork burgers, hot pretzels, nachos, and soda, will be available.

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WEEKLY CALENDAR/UPDATES

Vacancy pastoral hours upon request

Secretarial hours Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Sunday's church doors open at 8:00 AM service begins at 9:00 AM following with a Bible Study coffee and pastries generally served.

Tuesdays Bible study starting at 10:30 AM to 11:30AM



EASTER SERVICE NEEDS PLEASE

A new Volunteer List is available at the back of the church on the round table for Sunday Service sign-ups. Help is also needed during the Lent Season.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

For Easter, you are invited to add your name to the Flower List to receive an Easter Lily plant at the conclusion of the service season. Each plant is priced at \$25 and will make an attractive addition to your yard next year.

OUR CHURCH SERVICE HOURS



Palm Sunday March 29th 9:00 AM (HC)

Fellowship Breakfast Following the Service – A sign-up sheet for the potluck breakfast will be available on the round table at the back of the church.



Maundy Holy Thursday April 2nd at 6:00PM (HC)

Good Friday April 3rd at 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday April 5th at 9:00AM (HC)

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES TIMES

- **St Paul Lutheran Church Farmington MO**
Ash Wednesday 11 AM and 6:30 PM (HC)
Lenten services are held every Wednesday
9:00 AM and 6:30 PM -Feb. 18th to Mar.25th
Holy Thursday (Maundy) 6:30 PM (HC)
Good Friday 6:30 PM (HC)
Easter Sunday 7AM – 10 AM (HC)

- **Immanuel Lutheran Church Perryville MO**
Ash Wednesday 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM (HC)
Hymn Sing – starting at 5:40pm
Lenten Worship Mon/Tues/Wed Noon service
Holy Thursday (Maundy) 6:00 PM (HC)
Good Friday 12PM - 6:00 PM (HC)
Saturday 8:00 PM Easter vigil (HC)
Easter Sunday 730 AM and 10 AM (HC)

- **Immanuel Lutheran Church Festus/Crystal City**
Ash Wednesday 10 AM and 7:00 PM (HC)
Lenten services are held every Wednesday
Feb. 18th to Mar. 25th 10 AM and 7:00 PM
Holy Thursday (Maundy) 7:00 PM (HC)
Good Friday 7:00 PM (HC)
Easter Sunday (HC) 6AM-8AM-10:30AM
with a breakfast call for times though 636-937-5525
Have a program starting called silent witness call for details too.



SERVING TODAY

Pastor : Jarold Rux
 Scripture Readers: Vickie Eisenbeis
 Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
 Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
 Orgnist: Todd Brueckner

UP COMING SUNDAY MARCH 08, 2026

Pastor Jarold Rux
 Scripture Readers: Randy Ruzicka
 Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
 Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
 Organist: Todd Breuckner

Sunday Church Attendance	Attendance
First Week	42
Second Week	41
Third Week	37
Ash Wednesday	25
Fourth Week	43

Your Financial Support of Your Church	2/22/26	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,902.00	\$23,216.00
Actual Offerings—including online offerings (budget)	\$1,314.00	\$19,138.65
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	-\$1,588.00	-\$4,077.35
% Ahead/Behind	-54.7%	-17.6%

In Our Prayers This Week and Celebrations

Throughout the week, please keep these people in your daily prayers. As a model for prayer, consider going through the A.C.T.S. of prayer. *Adoration*: praising God for who He is.

Confession: confessing your sins to God, especially those that weigh on your heart. *Thanksgiving*: thanking God for specific blessings. *Supplication*: asking God for help.

For those who are homebound Barb Jones, Sharon Estes, Doug Arnold, Nick Krege, Pansy Meyer, Val Rakey.

For healing and continued recovery Bill Staffen (Bonnie Keir's brother, cancer), Dustin Hutson (recovering from a brain bleed), Pastor Jim Kirk (treatment for myeloma) Carol Steiger-Rudoff continued prayers for recovery of cancer (Connie Schwent's Sister In-law), Laura Pruneau Fallert (Cancer treatment) that her blood counts stay strong and that she is excepted to a new trial period with her oncology team. Continued prayers for healing for Wayne Phillips. Continuing prayers for Maia Rottler she is on treatments for Leukemia give her family faith to help her in this journey. (granddaughter of LaJune Rottler)

For those celebrating birthdays in March Frances Krueger (March 01), Cheryl Noll (March 02), Linda Trimmer (March 02), Eric Huck (March 05), Molly Bell (March 14), Carl Noll (March 22), Wayne Schremp (March 28).

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries in March

For Those Who Mourn

For local, state, and national elected officials that they uphold goodness and work humbly for those they serve.

For our community that more people believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We continue to pray for a Pastor to find his calling to Holy Cross Church.

For our church family that we are transformed in Christ to share the hope of eternal life.

To submit a prayer request for inclusion in the bulletin, contact Connie, the church secretary, at 573-535-0084, or the church office at 573-883-5361 or holycrossstegen@gmail.com. Please provide your request by Wednesday noon to ensure it appears in that week's bulletin. Prayer requests will continue to be listed until removal is requested by the submitting family. If you would like the Pastor or Seminarian to read a request aloud during the service, write it on the attendance card, fold the card, and either give it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.