

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20 Fremont, Ohio 43420 Pastor Tim Miller 93.1FM

faithchurch@amplex.net www.faithfremont.org

Church: 419-332-6820

Holy Cross Day

September 14, 2025

Setting 8 & 3 with Holy Communion *Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

(8:00) Prelude: The Prayer C. Sager and D. Foster (10:30) Prelude: Hymns of the Cross Arr. Janet Linker

<u>Welcome & Announcements</u>: Joys and Concerns Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

*(8:00) Gathering Song: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon Lord, and Where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and Where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console. To be understood as to understand, To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Continued

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. In giving of ourselves that we receive. And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*(10:30) Gathering Song: In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW 324

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*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.

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost

and have been found.

Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

C: Amen.

*Kyrie





- P: For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; For this holy house, for all who worship and praise, Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*.
- P: That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*.
- P: For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*.
- P. For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*.

*Prayer of the Day

- P: Let us pray.
- C: 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

Numbers 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

R: A reading from Numbers, the 21st chapter.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ 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 detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38

- ¹ Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- ³⁴ Whenever God slew them, they would seek God, and repent, and diligently search for God.
- 35 They would remember that God was their rock, and the Most High God their redeemer.
- ³⁶ But they flattered God with their mouths and lied to God with their tongues.

- ³⁷ Their heart was not steadfast, and they were not faithful to the covenant.
- ³⁸ Yet God, being merciful, forgave their sins and did not destroy them; holding back anger many times and not giving way to wrath.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

R: A reading from 1 Corinthians, the first chapter.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written,

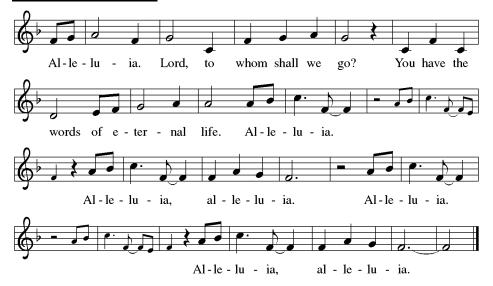
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel John 3:13-17

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

¹⁶ "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.

¹⁷ "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.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

*Sermon Hymn: Lift High the Cross ELW 660

*Apostles' 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

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

A brief silence.

R: Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. May they seek the way of the cross and live. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving, especially those we name at this time (Pause for people to be named). Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(10:30) Sr. Choir: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

H. Livingston, Jr.

*Offertory: Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks.

*Offering Prayer

P: Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*The 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

*Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

- P: 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 for the remembrance of me.
- P: 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 for the remembrance of me.
- P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.
- P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

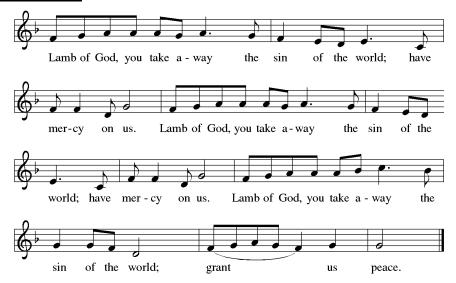
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Lamb of God



Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten-free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

(8:00) ELW 728 Blest Are They

(10:30) ELW 335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

(10:30) ELW 338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Post Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

*Prayer After Communion

P: O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Blessing

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,

+ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*(8:00) Sending Song: You Are Holy ELW 525

*(10:30) Sending Song: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

*(8:00) Postlude: You Are Holy Per Harling *(10:30) Postlude: I Love Your Cross, O Lord Don Freudenburg

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<u>WELCOME TO WORSHIP!</u> You are the Good Shepherd, Lord — you lead, protect, and restore (Psalm 23). As I enter worship, guide my heart back to your peace.



THIS YEAR, WE ARE LOOKING TO FILL 3

COUNCIL POSITIONS: Vice President, Trustee, and Elder. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these capacities, and if you feel the Spirit moving you to do so, please let one of the council members or Pastor Tim know.

CROGHAN TRUST & INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT: Join us for insights into the **One Big Beautiful Bill** on Wednesday, **September 24**th **at 6:00 p.m.** at the Fremont Elks Lodge, 436 Croghan St., Fremont. This informative session will help community members understand how the changes made in the One Big Beautiful Bill may impact you and your taxes. Following the presentation, Croghan's wealth management experts will be available to answer any questions you may have.

FAITH LUTHERAN FOOD DRIVE

FALL INTO GIVING: HELP FILL THE PANTRY is an event being organized by the Christian Mission and Outreach Committee to help stock the shelves at our local Sandusky County Food Pantry during the month of September. We will be placing a table and a cart in the narthex to aid in the collection of food items. After speaking with one of the pantry's managers, she gave me a paper that listed the center needs. The grocery products needed most are:

CANS OF TOMATO SOUP –
CANS OF CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP
CANS OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE
BOXES OF SPAGHETTI

CANNED FRUIT... ESPECIALLY APPLESAUCE BOXES OF CEREAL

CONTAINERS OF PEANUT BUTTER
BOXES OF SALTINE CRACKERS

BOXES OF PANCAKE MIX

BOXES OF MACARONI AND CHEESE

CANNED VEGETABLES...ESPECIALLY GREEN BEANS OR CORN

CANS OF SPAGHETTI O'S
CANS OF TUNA OR CHICKEN
CONTAINERS OF OATMEAL
BOXES OF POTATO FLAKES (INSTANT)

Please try to purchase items in boxes, cans, or plastic containers. No glass. Thanks.

All the groceries donated will be then transported to the pantry at the end of September. Thank you for your love and kindness with this endeavor.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!



SOUPER SOUP COOKOFF AND SILENT AUCTION:

<u>WHAT:</u> Any kind of soup – No Peppers please WHEN: Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 5 pm

WHERE: Faith Fellowship Hall COST: \$10.00 for adults and

\$5.00 for kids 10 and under Tickets sold at door only

<u>UP TO 12 ENTRANTS</u>: Sign-up between July 27th and September 14th.

We request that you be present to win.

RESTRICTIONS: MUST NOT USE PEPPERS IN SOUP - Except

<u>Black Ground</u> – due to some who are allergic to them.

SOUP HERE BY: 4:00 P.M. in a crock pot with no names or

identifying marks on it.

SERVING: Women's Board Members will serve Soup in

Styrofoam bowls with entrant's number on it.

TO ATTEND, EAT AND VOTE: Sign up by Sunday, September 28th –

not required – simply to give us an

idea of how many to expect.

<u>VOTING</u>: Each person attending will be given 1 ticket to write

their number one choice on and drop into a box.

Only one ticket will be issued per person.

PROVIDED: Hot Dogs, Buns, Condiments, Crackers, Tableservice

Drinks: Lemonade, Iced Tea (Sweetened &

Unsweetened), Hawaiian Punch, Water, Ice

<u>PROCEEDS</u>: To Flag City Honor Flight (For veterans to view monuments in Washington, D.C.) Free to Veterans, 1 Guardian can fly with them at a cost of \$400. They do 4 flights per year at a cost of \$150,000 per flight to take 80 Vets and their Guardians.

WANTED: Salads and Desserts to add to meal.

Sign-up sheet will be out closer to the time.

PRIZE: \$50.00 Visa Gift Card, Framed Certificate and

Apron to sign to be displayed at the church AND

"All year bragging rights"

SILENT AUCTION: Wanted – Groups or members to help donate

Baskets/Items, Craft items, or Services you could provide someone to be included in auction. Sign

up between July 27th – Sept. 28th

BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN WITH IT!

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE BEGIN A NEW SEASON OF MUSICAL WORSHIP!



Faith's Senior Choir, directed by Darla Brown, will begin rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 3rd!** Rehearsals run from **7:30-8:30 p.m.** in the **Choir room** which is down the hall on the right. Faith's Senior Choir leads in the hymn singing and provides an anthem for each 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service, starting September 7th through

May. The choir may participate in additional services during the Advent and/or Lenten seasons. New singers are always welcome to join!



Faith's Handbell Choir invites all persons wishing to praise our God and Savior with the beautiful sounds of handbells. Prior musical experience is helpful but not necessary to share your interest in heavy (and light) metal music with this fun and friendly group. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd, in the Fellowship Hall and will run from 6:30-7:20

p.m. This choir usually performs one anthem each month from Sept./Oct. through May.



<u>Faith's Praise Choir</u>, directed by Becky Fox, will also rehearse on Wednesdays, from **7:30-8:00 p.m.** and will meet in the **Sunday School Gathering** room. This

joyful group of singers presents a contemporary anthem periodically for the **8:00 a.m.** Sunday worship service, starting in September and running through May. New singers are always welcome to join!

You may contact Darla at 419.680.6717 or Becky at 419.618.6948 if you have any questions and would like more information. We hope to see you soon...

"as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:19-20 (NRSV)

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller Organist: Parm Boyer Pianist: Becky Fox

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown Flautist: Marilyn Ring

8:00 a.m. <u>10:30 a.m.</u>

Greeter: John & Judi Neill Laurie Krynock
Lector: Annie Gazdecki Laurie Krynock

Acolyte:

Communion: M. Reiselt/A. Miller C. Trick & A. Wagner

<u>Counters:</u> Dave Kocsis* & Judi Neill <u>Fellowship Time Host:</u> Jackie & Sheri

Altar Guild: Marg Schwartz, Laurie Krynock & Ann Waggoner

Ushers: Jim & Kim Smith

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller Organist: Parm Boyer

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m. <u>10:30 a.m.</u>

Greeter: Mike & Brenda Tooman Mary L. Cooper & Sally Sleek

Lector: Noah Seibert Shelby Thornhill

Acolyte: Greyson Tooman

Communion: J. Seibert/B. Fox R. Brown & R. Koch

<u>Counters:</u> Laurie Krynock* & Randy Koch <u>Fellowship Time Host:</u> Bill & Ruth Ann Seibert

Altar Guild: Marg Schwartz, Laurie Krynock & Ann Waggoner

Ushers: Mike & Brenda Tooman

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Paul Antesberger, Joan Bolen, Patty Carrigan, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Becky Sterling, Janet Tressler, Linda Woessner. Dorothy Hartford.

<u>For our Military</u>: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and

NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Sept. 14 to Sept. 21

Sunday

Sept. 14----- 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

Monday

Sept. 15-----10 a.m. Valley View Worship & Holy Communion

Tuesday

Sept. 16-----2:00 p.m. Ruth Circle

6:30 p.m. Executive Council 7:00 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday

Sept. 17-----7:00 a.m. Report time for Noah Bus Trip

7:30 p.m. Praise Choir

Thursday

Sept. 18-----9-3 p.m. Fellowship & Sew Day

3 p.m. Christ Care

<u>Friday</u>

Sept. 19-----

Saturday

Sept. 20-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care

Sunday

Sept. 21----- 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 137 – OFFERING: \$5,747.02

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 14, 2025 HOLY CROSS DAY

Saving Presence

An internet meme circulating a few years ago chided its audience, "If God didn't send Jesus into the world to condemn it, I doubt God sent you to." It's hard to refrain from judgment, especially when so many social pressures tempt us to judge ourselves as right and everyone else as wrong. John's gospel puts such competitions to rest: God loves everyone and everything—the whole world, all of creation, every person and part of the entire cosmos, all that is.

At first take, we might be baffled that we lift up the cross as the place where God's expansive love is so significantly shown for us. But through Christ's crucifixion, death, and resurrection, God works to unravel all the violence that leads to things like crucifixion in the first place. In the cross, God's presence is with us: God has taken on all of our human suffering so we can know that Christ's loving presence is with us when we are hurting too. God accompanies us through hardships. God brings new life in the midst of death! This is the mysterious power of the cross.

Every time God gathers us for holy communion, we remember that night when Jesus faced these hardest moments. Before being lifted up on the cross, he broke bread and shared wine and promised to remain with us always. Jesus continues to be with us in the holy meal even all these centuries later: in bread and wine, for us, lifted high. Indeed, this is the presence we need. It is the presence that sustains us at work, at school, at play. It is the presence that makes grace real. It is the presence that saves us from sin and death, always.