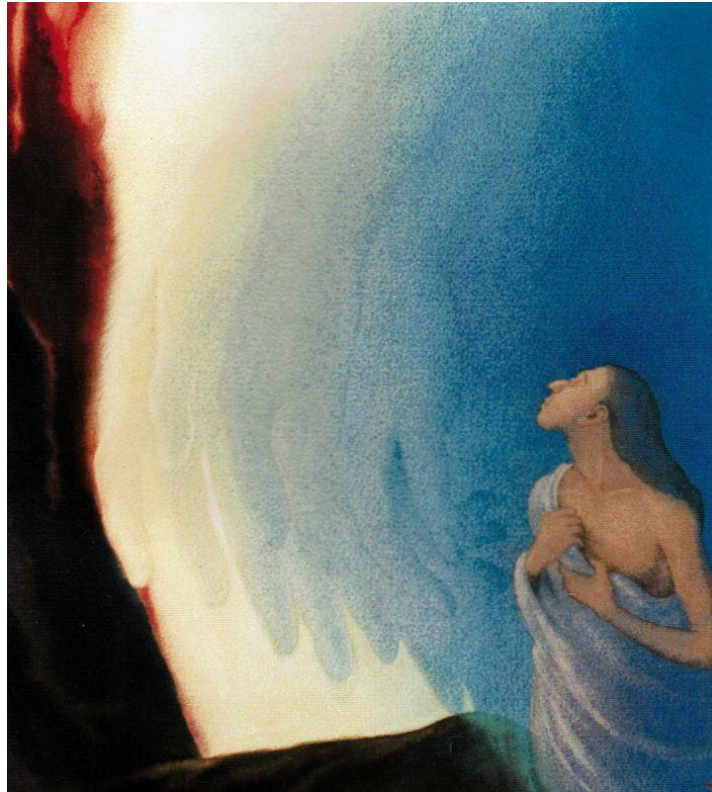


Church of the Holy Cross

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



The Hand of God is My Refuge

October 18, 2026
10 a.m.
Holy Communion

40700 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375
248-427-1175

www.holycrossnovi.org
holycrossnovi@gmail.com

Gathering of the People

Prelude *Silence is appreciated as we prepare to worship*

Opening Hymn H 492 *Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness*



1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,
 2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him - self to
 3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -
 4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's

sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior
 Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,
 kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,
 throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,

let his house res - ound a - gain; him let all your
 bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the
 Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the
 till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -

mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.
 gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.
 full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.
 newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930). By permission of Oxford University Press.

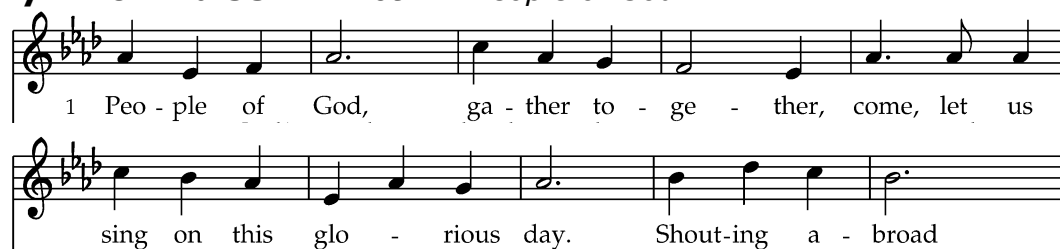
Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

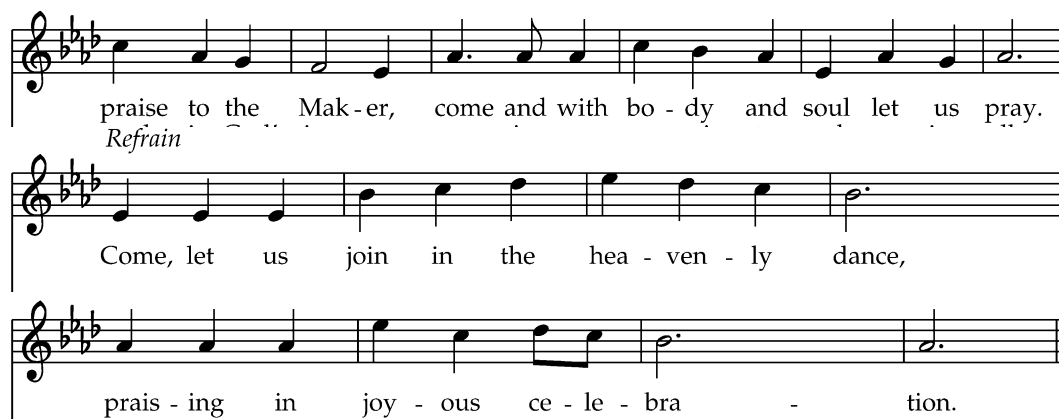
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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 of Praise VF 109 *People of God*



1 Peo - ple of God, ga - ther to - ge - ther, come, let us
 sing on this glo - rious day. Shout-ing a - broad



Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

First Lesson

Isaiah 45:1-7

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him-- and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 96:1-9, (10-13)

The reader leads off, and congregation responds with the bold verses.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 **Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; ***
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

- 4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ***
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
 but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 **Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! ***
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
 ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; ***
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
 let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 **[Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! ***
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy**
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
 and the peoples with his truth.]

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Reader A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn H 440

Blessed Jesus at thy word

Sing verse 1&2 before the gospel & verse 3 after.

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -

hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,

now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy

pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Words: Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878); alt. Music: *Liebster Jesu*, melody Johann Rudolph Ahle (1625-1673); alt. *Das grosse Cantional: oder Kirchen-Gesangbuch*, 1687; harm. George Herbert Palmer (1846-1926).

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

Deacon

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?"

They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Jonathan Sams

Affirmation of Faith *from the New Zealand Prayerbook*

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us. You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
 good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
 your love for us in Jesus Christ,
 who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now. You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

The Prayers of the People *from the Baptist Union of Great Britain*

Leader Ever living and ever-loving God,
 We praise you for your loving presence with us.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader take and transform our societies—
 that broken people find healing; that lonely people find love;
 that bitter people find peace; that fearful people find hope.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader take our world's leaders and governments and bring renewal—
 that communication can be open; that relationships between
 hostile people and hostile nations will begin to calm and hostilities dissolve,
 that a hunger for justice addresses the hunger for food felt by so many.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader fill your church—that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you; that
 prayers will change our minds instead of trying to get you to change yours;
 that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world. We
 especially keep in our prayers our supply clergy and the ministry of the lay
 people of Holy Cross.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader for our search committee and vestry. Grant them wisdom, discernment and
 patience as they move through this search process.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader for the pastor who will be joining us. Lead the right priest to our Church and
 guide us as we move forward together.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader fill our lives with your presence—so that more and more every day, all that
 we do and say and hope will be an act of worship to you and an expression of
 love to others, to the glory of your name.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader As we pray for those in our cycle of prayer _____.

Please add your own intercessions and thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

Celebrant Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully,
 grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your name, through
 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Confession and Absolution (Episcopal Book of Common Prayer)

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord
 Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
 Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

God's Peace is exchanged with one another.

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Music Choir *Living Faith* Brad Croushorn

The Offertory is sung while the Celebrant sets the table.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, Father, in every place and at all times.
All power is yours. You created the heavens and established the earth;
you sustain in being all that is.

In Christ your Son our life and yours are brought together in a wonderful exchange.
He made his home among us that we might for ever dwell in you.
Through your Holy Spirit you call us to new birth in a creation restored by love.

As children of your redeeming purpose rejoicing in communion
with all your saints, we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Sanctus LEVAS 255 *Holy, holy, holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord, of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high -

est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Grayson Warren Brown (b. 1948), *A Mass for a Soulful People*. Copyright © 1979 North American Liturgy Resources, 10802 N. 23rd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85029. All Rights Reserved.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. He is the Word existing beyond time, both source and final purpose, bringing to wholeness all that is made. Obedient to your will he died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be his Body in the world.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end.

At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by your Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.

All **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught us, we now pray,

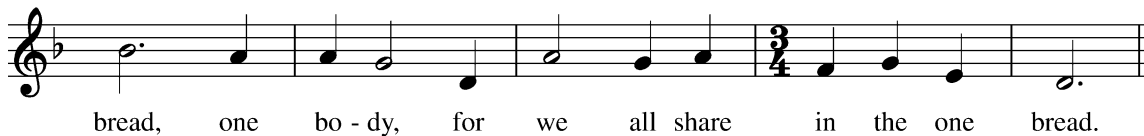
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread *(Celebrant takes and breaks the bread.)*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Fraction WLP 867 *The bread which we break*

The bread which we break is a shar-ing in the
Bo-dy of Christ. We be-ing ma-ny are one



Music: Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Fraction Anthems, Canticles, and Chants*. Copyright © 1997 Carl Haywood.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy Gifts for Holy People.

The Communion of the People

No one who comes to the bread and wine seeking Christ is turned away. The words of distribution are:
 The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. Amen.
 The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. Amen.

Communion Music *Instrumental*

Announcements & Blessings of Life Events

Post Communion Prayer (*Attributed to St. Francis*)

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is discord, union;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 where there is sadness, joy.
 Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Blessing

Life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn H 594 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;



crown thine an-cient Church's sto-ry; bring her bud to glo-rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
 shame our wan-ton, self-ish glad-ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
 let the gift of thy sal-va-tion be our glo-ry ev-er-more.

Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, for the fac-ing of this
 grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, for the liv-ing of these
 Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, lest we miss thy king-dom's
 Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, serv-ing thee whom we a-

hour, for the fac-ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv-ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king-dom's goal.
 dore, serv-ing thee whom we a-dore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

Going into the World

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, ALLELUIA!**

Postlude

This brings the worship to a close.

All are invited for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service.

Ministers of Today's Service

1st Reading & Psalm: Ed Happ

2nd Reading & Prayers: Jane Foote

Greeter/Usher: Cathi Peterson

Zoom Host: Shirley Chen

Altar Guild: Kathy Kirby

Clergy

Bishop of Michigan: The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry

Deacon: The Rev. Dcn. Cleda Smartt

Staff

Administrator: Teri Landreth

Music Director: Kate Autry

Sexton: Katie Forbing

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