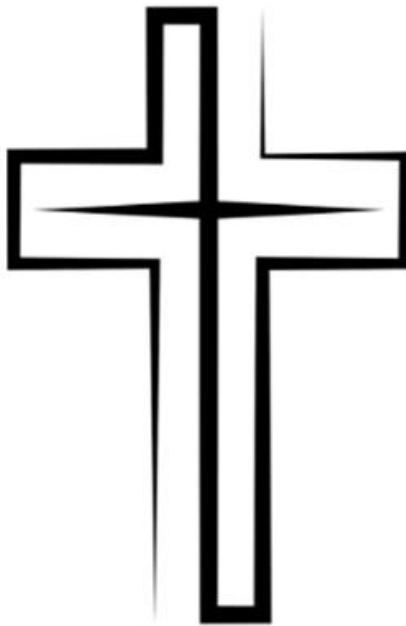


Church of the Holy Cross

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



August 9, 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 209 *We walk by faith*



1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as
 fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound, to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near, and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt. Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979). By permission of Oxford University Press.

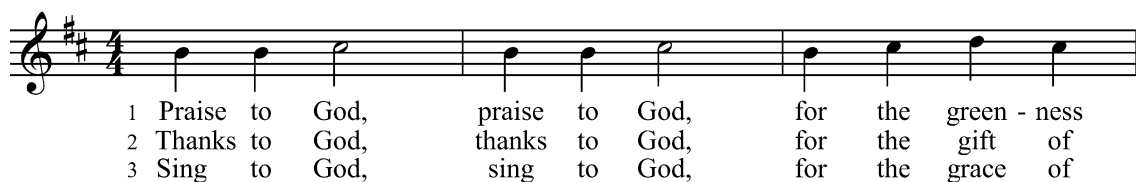
Opening Acclamation

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 MHSO 132 *Praise to God*



1 Praise to God, praise to God, for the green - ness
 2 Thanks to God, thanks to God, for the gift of
 3 Sing to God, sing to God, for the grace of

of the trees, for the beau - ty of the flow'rs,
 friends in Christ, for the church, our house of faith,
 Je - sus Christ, for the love of par - ent God,
 for a blue - ness of the sky, for the great - ness
 for the gift of won - drous love, for the gift of
 for the com - fort and the strength of the Spir - it,
 of the sea. Praise to God, praise to God,
 end - less grace. Thanks to God, thanks to God,
 ho - ly God. Sing to God, sing to God,
 now and for - - - ev - er - more.
 now and for - - - ev - er - more.
 now and for - - - ev - er - more.

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Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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

1 Kings 19:9-18

Reader A reading from the first book of Kings.

At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:8-13

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

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
9 **Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, ***
that his glory may dwell in our land.
10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
11 **Truth shall spring up from the earth, ***
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
13 **Righteousness shall go before him, ***
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Second Lesson

Romans 10:5-15

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn LEVAS 58 *The Lord is my light*

Sing once before the gospel & once after.

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my
light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my light and
my sal - va - tion; whom shall I fear?

Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

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

***People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

***People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev Geoffrey Piper

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 H 608

Eternal Father

The Offertory is performed while the Celebrant sets the table.

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the
2 O Christ, whose voice the wa - ters heard and hushed their ra - ging
3 Most Ho - ly Spi - rit, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, thy chil - dren shield in

rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its
at thy word, who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
 calm a - mid its rage didst sleep: O hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace; O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Words: William Whiting (1825-1878), alt. Music: *Melita*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

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 WLP 858 *Holy, holy, holy*

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

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

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

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."

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!**

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

Fraction WLP 878 *Whoever comes to me*

Who-ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and

who-ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst.

The musical score is for a hymn in 4/4 time, key of D major. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line consists of two staves. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The lyrics are: 'Who-ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and who-ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst.'

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

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

Let us pray.

Holy and life-giving God, we have broken the bread which is Christ's body, we have tasted the wine of his new life. We thank you for these gifts by which we are made one in him and drawn into that new creation which is your will for all the world; through him who died for us and rose again, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 680

O God our help in ages past

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;

1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90. Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm.
William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

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: Rebecca McCormick
Greeter/Usher: Zean Smartt
Zoom Host: Minerva Melville
Counters: Pam Hinkle & Rebecca McCormick
Altar Guild: Gael Grossman & Cathi Peterson

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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