

**First Lutheran Church
Findlay OH**



THE TREE OF THE CROSS

In Revelation, the visionary describes the life of those saved by the cross as if finally at the end all things they enjoy the fruits and the leaves of the tree of life. As people of the cross, we gather around this tree that restores life to us lost in the garden of Eden.

GATHERING

Congregational Responses in Bold Print

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Amazing Grace* HOBBY

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist. Amen.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you. Amen.

HYMN *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
2. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
3. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

GREETING

Behold, now is the acceptable time;

now is the day of salvation.

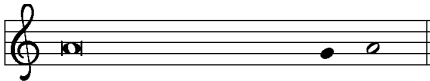
Gather us, O God, around the cross of Christ,

and make it for us the tree of life.

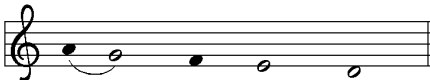
May the fruits of this tree feed the hungry,

and may its leaves heal the nations.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



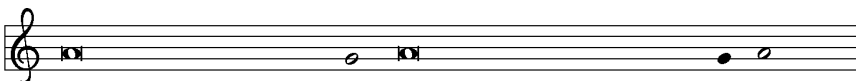
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Revelation 21:22—22:5

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplant sun and moon.

^{21:22} I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Galatians 3: 10-14

In Christ's cross the tree of the curse becomes the tree of life, of which all are invited to enjoy its fruits.

¹⁰For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law."

¹¹Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for "The one who is righteous will live by faith." ¹²But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, "Whoever does the works of the law will live by them." ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree" — ¹⁴in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

SERMON *Rev. Christian Dittmar*

HYMN OF THE DAY *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* RATHBUN

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
 All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
 never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
3. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
 peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, let us confess our faith

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.

THE PRAYERS

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, † bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* CULLI



First Lutheran Church
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay OH 45840
Rev. Robert C. Cochran, Sr.

Office Hours
8:30-3:00 Mon.-Thurs.
8:30-12:00 Noon on Friday
419-422-2638