

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025  
HOLY CROSS DAY

a little about the Scripture readings today  
and the saints of the Church we remember  
this week...

SCRIPTURE

**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.*

**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.*

**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 salvation.*

**Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church**  
**975 Washington Road**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15228**  
**Church Telephone: 412-563-0300**



Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103740.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

ONE LICENSE 7343 S. Mason Avenue Chicago, IL 60638 / License A-742170

COMMEMORATIONS  
FOR THE WEEK

**Holy Cross Day**  
**Sunday, September 14, 2025**  
Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.  
**Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258**  
**Tuesday, September 16, 2025**  
Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.  
**Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179**  
**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**  
A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.  
**Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961**  
**Thursday, September 18, 2025**  
A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.  
**Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF)**  
**Saturday, September 20, 2025**  
A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.



**Festive Worship Liturgy**  
**Holy Cross Day**  
**September 14, 2025**

---

**Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church**

---

Holy Cross Day  
September 14, 2025  
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Gathering

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

Prelude

Guest Organist: Gretchen Franz

The Sanctus Bells proclaim the advent of worship and Christ’s promise to be present as we gather in faith. Please rise at the bells.

Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness [the faithful kneel or sit] Insert  
Hymn *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* ELW 324

Greeting  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day  
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 Bible reading, preaching, and song.*

Children’s Message [10:00]  
First Reading Numbers 21:4b-9  
Psalm: 98:1-4 [sung responsively, indented verses by the gathered] *found in the Hymnal*  
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-24  
Holy Gospel John 3:13-17  
Spoken response at the announcement of the Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
After the reading of the Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon Pastor Heagy  
Hymn of the Day *Lift High the Cross* ELW 660  
Apostles’ Creed ELW page 105  
Prayers of the Faithful [Response to each petition: receive our prayer. ]  
Exchange of Peace

Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering  
Duet [10:00] *Father, Most Holy* David Von Kampen  
Soloists: Megan Cumming, soprano & Alexandria Zallo, mezzo-soprano  
Anthem [8:30] *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* Chris Tomlin  
Doxology [the faithful stand] ELW 884  
Offertory Prayer  
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. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue  
The Lord be with you. / And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
  
Proper Preface *Insert*  
Sanctus ELW page 153  
Verba [the faithful kneel]  
Lord’s Prayer ELW page 112  
Invitation to the Table  
Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
**Come to this meal of mercy.**  
*\*Gluten free wafers available*

Agnus Dei [the faithful stand] ELW page 154  
Distribution  
ELW 335 is sung during distribution of the Eucharist.  
Post Communion Prayer

Sending

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

Blessing  
Hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* ELW 803  
Dismissal  
Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Soli Deo Gloria*