

Time after Pentecost
September 13, 2020



Christ Lutheran Church
2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso, Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660
Website: clcvalpo.org • E-mail: clcvalpo@clcvalpo.org

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card](#). If you'd like to provide a reading or greeting, [sign up here](#). May the peace of the risen Christ be with you!

PRELUDE

*In Dir ist Freude (BWV 615)
(In Thee is Gladness)*

J.S. Bach

CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG #867

In Thee Is Gladness



1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
 2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
 death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
 change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
 glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
 in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ning to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
 glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
 and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

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.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of debts forgiven,
you call to account
our hunger for power;
you disturb hierarchies
which crush the weak:
break the vicious cycles
of revenge and domination
that we might look to him
whose mercy never ends,
Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S TIME

SONG #822



1 Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



¡Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

2 *Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

4 *Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

3 *Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

5 *¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

READING: Exodus 14:19-31

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the LORD and in the LORD's servant Moses.

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
 Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
 Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

A NOTE ABOUT OFFERINGS

During this time of social distancing, your congregation continues to serve: keeping us connected, caring for one another, holding our building ready for our return, supporting our staff and those they serve. Your offerings make that happen. Because our offerings are never only for us, a portion is given to the to the ELCA World Hunger www.elca.org/hunger/Disaster Response www.elca.org/disaster.

We have had many questions about how we can receive offerings during this time of coronavirus. Offerings can be given online at <http://clcvalpo.org/give>, by texting 'CLCVALPO' to 77977, by US Mail to 2610 Campbell St., or by dropping an envelope in the locked box outside Door #3 facing the High School.

If you have been impacted by the coronavirus economically, remember that your value to God, and to us, is not dependent on your financial resources. We want to walk with you and want to help; please reach out to pastors@clcvalpo.org. Likewise, if you know someone who has been affected, either with the virus or via the economic situation, please let us know!

PRAYERS

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture changing ministries of education and growth as congregations adapt to the pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom – our president, governor, and mayors, legislators and councils. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you especially John Chrysostom, Cyprian, Hildegard and Dag Hammarskjöld, whom we commemorate today. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

BLESSING

Mothering God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #604 *O Christ, Our Hope*



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

MUSICAL MEDITATION

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,

nourish us with this rich food and drink,

and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,

through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is more complex than the previous hymn, with some syncopation and a key signature change to F major (no sharps or flats) for the final line. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.', 'Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

Come to the banquet table
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

Thanks be to God!

The body of Christ, given for you
Amen (*receive the bread*)

The blood of Christ, shed for you
Amen (*receive the cup*)

PRAYER

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this gathering, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

I'll Praise My Maker

arr. Page

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Deep Waters of Forgiveness

Churches have different practices around baptism. In some churches, a small bowl holds just enough water to trickle a few drops over the head. In others, the bowl is wider and the water is splashed with the whole hand. In yet other churches, the person is fully immersed in a font large enough for them to go all the way underwater. Sometimes the water stays in the bowl, sometimes a bit splashes out, and sometimes the whole area around the font gets wet. But no matter the amount of water used, there's always more where it comes from. God's waters of forgiveness run deeper than we will ever know.

The waters of baptism are so deep that even a few sprinkles cover a lifetime of falling short. We are forgiven time and again for a myriad of sins. And because the weight of sin has been lifted from us, we are free to extend such forgiveness to others.

In fact, our faith depends on it. In the Lord's Prayer, our petition for forgiveness is directly tied to our own willingness to forgive others: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Thankfully, we are not expected to conjure up such forgiveness on our own. We draw from the endless supply of divine reserves. Where we, and Peter, might have difficulty forgiving a mere seven times, Jesus reminds us that his kind of forgiveness can be measured on an exponential scale.

While our capacity for forgiveness may be limited, Jesus' well of forgiveness is deep enough for all people and all matters of sin. When we find ourselves struggling to extend forgiveness to others, we return to the baptismal font. This is an overflowing well of love. Drawing from this water, we draw from the limitless supply of forgiveness.

Remembering our baptism, we are reminded not only that we are forgiven, but that we, too, are agents of forgiveness in the world.

Stewardship Snippet

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. – Romans 14:26-27

What is the common good? For Christians, it is expressed in the reign, or way, of Christ. We are accountable to God for how we treat one another; how we reflect the love of Christ through both our words and our actions.

2020 CONFIRMANDS

Jacy Christine Schmidgall

Baptized: December 11, 2005
Confirmation: September 6, 2020

Baptismal Sponsors: Chad Boettcher & Jen Schmidgall
Confirmation Mentor: Tifani Boettcher
Scripture Verse: Proverbs 31: 25
She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.

Caiden Drew Boettcher

Baptized: July 9, 2006
Confirmation: September 6, 2020

Baptismal Sponsors: Jeff & Amy Sinder
Confirmation Mentor: Chris Schmidgall
Scripture Verse: Philippians 4:13
I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Noah Benjamin Magiera

Baptized: January 22, 2006
Confirmation: September 10, 2020

Baptismal Sponsors: Tom Magiera & Kristen Blood
Confirmation Mentor: Ed J. Seykowski
Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 9:24
Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it.

Isaac Nicolas Siewin

Baptized: May 22, 2005
Confirmation: September 10, 2020

Baptismal Sponsors: Bryan Siewin & Rachel Sliwa
Confirmation Mentor: Nathan Budnik
Scripture Verse: Joshua 1:9
I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Asher John Knauff

Baptized: June 18, 2006
Confirmation: September 13, 2020

Baptismal Sponsors: Kim Tanner & Kära Tanaka
Confirmation Mentor: Tim Malchow

2020 CONFIRMANDS

Olivia Callaway

Baptized:

Confirmation: September 17, 2020

Matthew Benjamin Hofer

Baptized: May 21, 2006

Confirmation: September 20, 2020

Confirmation Mentor:

Benjamin Lieske

Scripture Verse:

Proverbs 16:9

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Robert Michael Summerville

Baptized: October 2, 2005

Confirmation: September 20, 2020

Baptismal Sponsors:

Donna Smith & Michael Robbins

Confirmation Mentor:

Rev. Timothy Knauff, Sr.

Scripture Verse:

Psalm 9:9

The Lord also keeps safe those who suffer. He is a safe place in the times of trouble.

Madelyn Marie Norman

Baptized: January 8, 2006

Confirmation: September 24, 2020

Baptismal Sponsors: Mike Owen & Martha Wischmeyer

Confirmation Mentor: Martha Wischmeyer

Scripture Verse: Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Adam David Boedeker

Baptized: May 21, 2006

Confirmation: September 27, 2020

Baptismal Sponsors: Randy & Chelsea Crowe

Confirmation Mentor: Mike DePasquale

Scripture Verse: Matthew 7:13

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it.

COMMEMORATIONS
Week of **September 13, 2020**

September 13

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname “Chrysostom” (“golden mouth”). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

September 14

Holy Cross Day

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.

September 16

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

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.

September 17

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179

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.

September 18

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

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.

Pastors: Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.
Rev. Erica Gibson-Even
Director of Music Ministries: Brian Bartusch

Readers: John & Levi Maddox
Greeters: Maddox Family
Sound: Paul Danger