



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026 at 10:00am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Fountain Reverie
Percy Fletcher (1879-1932)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

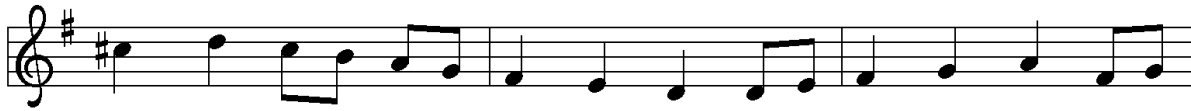
Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 55—Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help,
we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that
gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALTER

Psalm 119:33-40



- 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 172–Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be

to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Nuss

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 603—God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we seek re - lease
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful in - to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re - store the hope of heal - ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing all the fail - ures we con - fess.
from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless - ing; make us stron - ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn - ing: God, en - cour - age and re - new!



APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – LITANY FOR LABOR DAY

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world,
and all of God's creation.

God of all creation, you made us co-creators with you, shaping the world in which we live.
You gave dignity to our labor by sending your Son to labor with us.

By our labor, you enrich the world.
By our labor we enjoy the fruits of creation.

For providing varieties of work and for blessing our labor:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who plow the field, those who make the plow; for farmers and farm workers, for
steelworkers and machinists; for those who work with their hands, and those who move the
earth:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who tend the sick and those who seek new cures; for doctors and nurses, for
scientists and technicians; for those who work with technology; for those who work toward
continued needed vaccines:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who think and those who create; for inventors and explorers, for artists and
musicians; for those who write books and those who entertain:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who work in offices, those who work at home, and those who work in warehouses;
for administrative assistants, for those who support, for IT experts, for those who market
products and those who move them:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

(continued on the next page)

For those who inspire our minds, and those who motivate us; for teachers and preachers, for public servants, and those who protect, and those who defend, for religious servants, missionaries, those who help the poor, and those who work with our children:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those whose labor is tidiness and cleanliness; for custodians and sanitation workers, for laborers who clean and for those who produce cleaning products:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who sail the waves and those who fly the skies; for captains and attendants, for astronauts and deep sea divers; for those who chart and those who navigate:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

Guard and protect those who labor in the world.

Bless the work of our hands, O Lord.

Bless the retired and those who intercede in prayer for others. Especially, bring healing to all who are ill, and embrace with your love all who mourn.

Give health to the sick and hope to the bereaved.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All may share a sign of Peace.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or place it in the offering plate, or use this QR code with your device to securely give your Offering.

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910



OFFERTORY MUSIC

Pastor Zawistoski
Hammered Dulcimer

*The offering is received and is presented at the altar.
Please stand.*

OFFERING HYMN (*Verse 2*)

ELW 695—As Saints of Old



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
*2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

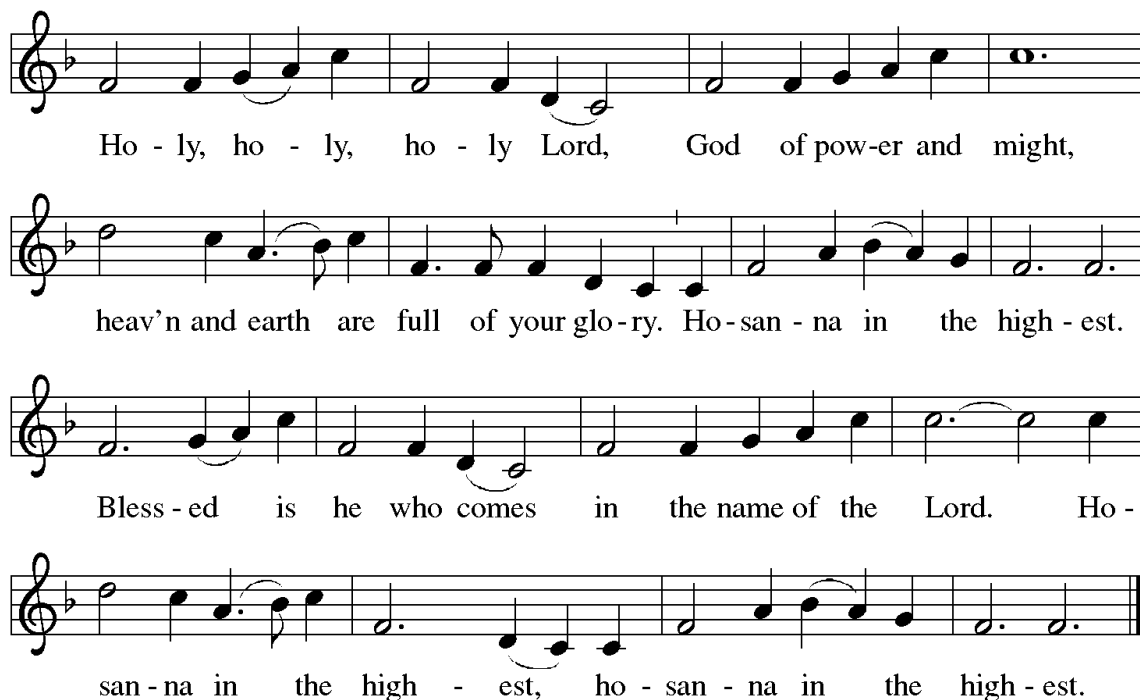
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW Setting Ten



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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.

Blessed are you, Lord of all creation. We thank and praise you for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts to establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to receive our Redeemer who comes to us in this Holy Supper. **Amen.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga a nosotros tu reino,
hagase tu voluntad,
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;
perdona nuestras ofensas,
como nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,
mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Thanks be to God!

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps.

Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.

(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)

Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen.***

AGNUS DEI

Setting Ten



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 639—When We Are Living



Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,
 1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain, . . .
 3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find . . .



y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.
 and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . .
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . . .
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . . .



Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,
 Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 wheth-er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 and when we help them, or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

ELW 542—O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your-self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;



O won-drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank-ful song o'er - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✝ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 864—Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
- 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
- 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
- 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in Seven
Sir John Rutter (b.1945)



HOMECOMING SUNDAY
and Observing Holy Cross Day
SEPTEMBER 13, 10:00 a.m.
NEXT SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Homecoming Worship

Children's Message

Schola Cantorum

Installation of Council

and then...

11:00 a.m. Festival of Coming Together

Delicious Homecoming Breakfast

Pancakes, Eggs,

Fruit, Bagels,

Assorted Danishes and more -

all the homecoming favorites!

and

Much More!

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

PREACHING MINISTER

The Rev. Gary Nuss
Support Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Deacon Kyle Warfield
Director of Outreach and High School Ministries

Rev. Richard Zawistoski
Confirmation Pastor

READER

Debra Johnson

CRUCIFER

Venith Bolleddu

MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham
Director of Music

Ellen Miller
Carillon Guild

Pastor Zawistoski
Offertory Music

TODAY'S MUSIC

ELW 557– Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: François H. Barthélemon, 1741–1808
Tune: MORNING HYMN

ELW 172–Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Music: Music: Caribbean traditional;
arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

ELW 603– God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889
Tune: MERTON

ELW 695–As Saints of Old

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900-1996, alt.
Music: English folk tune, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams,
1872-1958
Tune: FOREST GREEN

ELW 639– When We Are Living

Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger,
b. 1942; st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George
Lockwood, b. 1946
Music: Spanish traditional
Tune: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

ELW 542–O Living Bread from Heaven

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth,
1827–1878, alt.
Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876
Tune: AURELIA

ELW 864– Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman,
1927-2005
Music: John Gross, 1800-1880
Tune: LAUDA ANIMA

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright © 2006, administered by Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 3174-W.

Reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, Year A 2025-2026, copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 4182-C.

OneLicense.net streaming license A-701360

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

Sunday, September 06 XV

PENTECOST

8:30 AM Tech Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

11:00 AM The Gathering

Monday, September 07

LABOR DAY SAINT LUKE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 08

8:30 AM CDS Classes

10:00 AM Mary/Martha Circle (Online)

10:00 AM CDS Music

1:30 PM Program Staff Meeting
(Online)

Wednesday, September 09

7:00 AM Faith Connections (Online)

8:30 AM CDS Classes

10:00 AM Women in Community

10:00 AM CDS Chapel

5:30 PM CDS All About Me Family
Poster Night

7:30 PM Schola Cantorum

Thursday, September 10

8:30 AM CDS Classes

7:30 PM AA

7:30 PM Centering Prayer (Online)

Friday, September 11

8:30 AM CDS Classes

6:00 PM AA

Saturday, September 12

8:30 AM Men's Group

9:30 AM AA

11:00 AM Al-Anon

8:30 PM AA

Sunday, September 13

HOMEcomings SUNDAY &

FESTIVAL OF THE HOLY CROSS

8:00 AM Schola Cantorum

8:30 AM Tech Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship (English)

11:00 AM Homecoming Breakfast

1:00 PM Worship (Spanish)

2:00 PM The Gathering