

# COMMUNION

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek [5 PM, 8 AM]  
— Joyful Ringers [10:30 AM]

### BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

HYMN #779 — *Amazing Grace*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek

*For God so loved  
the world that he gave  
his only Son.*

*John 3:16, NRSV*



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

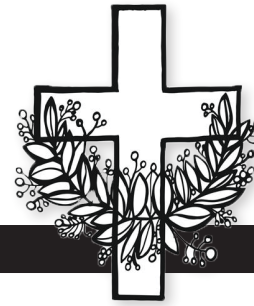
1254 S. Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166

715.526.2017 • [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org) • [www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)

*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



©2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS015039. Readings are from Readings for the Assembly ©1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI License #1006583. Clipart and stock photos used by permission of Communication Resources, Inc. ©2025 ChurchArt Online. Clipart is used with permission from sermoncentral.com. Citations from Revised Common Lectionary ©1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations from NRSV Bible ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, adapted and edited with permission by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw. May be reproduced with a SundaysandSeasons.com subscription for nonsale local use by worship leaders. Revised Common Lectionary, ©1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. The Day Is Smiling to You by Regine Martin. Photo by RODRUN/Knöll. Copyright © 2024 RODRUN/Knöll/Mauritius/SuperStock. Used by permission.



# Holy Cross Day

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

CALL TO WORSHIP — Joyful Ringers [10:30 AM]

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. **Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

HYMN #857 — *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

### 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

### FIRST READING — *Numbers 21:4b-9*

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out, but the people became impatient on the way. They spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

### SECOND READING — *1 Corinthians 1:18-24*

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL — *John 3:13-17*

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus

said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

#### THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

#### HYMN #660 — *Lift High the Cross*

#### APOSTLES’ CREED

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*Petitions conclude...* name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### THE OFFERING

#### OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

