

Duke UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Holy Cross Day

Sunday, September 14, 2025, 11:00 a.m.



Jan Witdoek, *The Elevation of the Cross*, 17th c.

Today's worship service recognizes the Feast of the Holy Cross, or Holy Cross Day. This annual Christian feast, observed on September 14, commemorates the True Cross, or the real cross on which Jesus was crucified. This feast is also one of the few days of the church calendar when the liturgical color is red, a color used to signify both the fire of the Holy Spirit, as well as the blood of Christ and the saints and martyrs, constantly renewing the church. The Feast of the Holy Cross celebrates the cross as a sign of salvation through Christ's triumph over sin and death. So sings the sixth-century hymn by Venantius Fortunatus on which today's prelude is based: "Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, be for all the noblest tree; none in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit your equal be; symbol of the world's redemption, for your burden makes us free." The theme of the cross is reflected throughout today's music, scripture readings, and sermon.

Gathering Carillon

Prelude

Pange lingua gloriosi

Nicolas de Grigny
(1672–1703)

Introit

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

William H. Doane
(1832–1915)

Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

—*Fanny J. Crosby (1820–1915)*

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Gathering Hymn | UMH 295

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance | The minister offers words of confession in three biddings to which the congregation responds as follows:

Minister: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: Christ, have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Minister: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

The minister speaks words of assurance.

*All rise as able

*Peace | All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

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 and ponder your word, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 134 in pew Bibles.

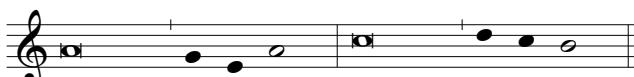
Numbers 21:4b–9

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody | The assembly chants the verses in bold.

Psalm 78:1–2, 34–38



An Asaph maskil

Give ear, O my people, | to my teaching,
incline your ear to the words | of my mouth.

I will open my mouth with a | parable,
utter profound sayings from | long ago.

Even as He killed them, | they beseeched Him;
they turned | and sought God.

Then they remembered that God | was their rock,
God Most High | their redeemer.

They flattered Him | with their mouths,
and with their tongues | lied to Him.

Their heart was not | steadfast with Him,
and they were not faithful | in His covenant.

But He being merciful would forgive their wrongdoing and | not destroy.
Often He restrained His anger and did not vent | all His wrath.

—trans. *Ellen F. Davis*

New Testament Lesson | NT page 156 in pew Bibles.

1 Corinthians 1:18–24

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***Gradual Hymn** | See hymn printed on the insert. Stanzas 1–3. All turn to face the Gospel procession.

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

NEW LONDON

***Gradual Lesson** | NT page 88 in pew Bibles.

John 3:13–17

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***Gradual Hymn** | See hymn printed on the insert. Stanzas 4 and 5.

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

NEW LONDON

Sermon

The Foolish Way of God

Response

Commissioning of the PathWays Fellows

Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: Hear our prayer.

Offertory Anthem

God So Loved the World

John Stainer
(1840–1901)

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved.

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

God so loved the world.

—John 3:16–17

*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanksgiving

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord's Prayer | All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choosing. The text is found on page 895 at the end of the hymnal.

Sending Forth

*Choral Benediction

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

W. H. Doane

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, brings it scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

—Fanny J. Crosby

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn | UMH 159

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Postlude

Improvisation on HOC SIGNUM CRUCIS

Hoc signum crucis erit in caelo.
This sign of the cross shall be in heaven.

—Plainsong for the Feast of the Holy Cross

Carillon

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following the postlude, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel; worship guides for the service are available near the entrance. Following communion, the minister will be available to offer prayers and anointing.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers

Ryan Wilson *Senior Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Keagan Bouman *Intern for Worship and Student Engagement; Divinity '26*

Preacher

Bruce Puckett *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Lectors

Kylie Carter *Chapel PathWays Fellow; Divinity '28*
Oral White *Chapel PathWays Fellow; Divinity '27*

Musicians

Duke Chapel Choir *Choir*
Zebulon Highben *Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*
Chad Fothergill *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*
David Lim *Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel*
Mitchell Eithun *Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*
Monica Szabo-Nyeste *Cantor*

Head Ushers

Ken Arneson *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Pete Acker *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Today's Offering | All of today's cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will support human service organizations in the greater Durham area. You are invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering. You may also give directly to the Congregation at Duke University Chapel by check written to the Congregation at Duke University Chapel or online at congregation.chapel.duke.edu and access the giving link. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

Today's Flowers | The flowers for the worship service today are given to the glory of God by the Nancy Hanks Chapel Endowment.

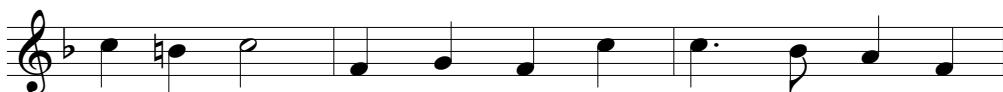
Musical Acknowledgments | The tune of today's gradual hymn, NEW LONDON, was composed by Donna L. Sparks, who served as Assistant Conductor for Chapel Music in the 1980s and 1990s.

Liturgical Acknowledgments | Prayer for Illumination. Adapted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Augsburg Fortress Press, © 2006.

GRADUAL HYMN | Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle



1. Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; sing the tri - umph
2. God in mer - cy saw us fall - en, sunk in shame and
3. Bend your boughs, O tree of glo - ry, your re - lax - ing
4. Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, be for all the
5. Un - to God be praise and glo - ty; to the Fath - er



far and wide; tell a - loud the won - drous sto - ry
mis - er - y, felled to death in E - den's gar - den,
sin - ews bend; for a while the an - cient rig - or
no - blest tree; none in fol - iage, none in blos - som,
and the Son, to the e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or



of the cross, the Cru - ci - fied; tell how Christ, the
where in pride we claimed the tree; then an - oth - er
that your birth be - stowed, sus - pend; and the Lord of
none in fruit your e - qual be; sym - bol of the
now and ev - er - more be done; praise and glo - ry



world's re - deem - er, van - quished death the day he died.
tree was cho - sen, which the world from death would free.
heav'n - ly beau - ty gent - ly on your arms ex - tend.
world's re - demp - tion, for your bur - den makes us free.
in the high - est, while the time - less a - ges run.

Text: Fortunatus (530–609); tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866), alt.

Music: Donna L. Sparks

NEW LONDON

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ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing assistance technology, as well as large-print worship guides and hymnals, is available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. For other accommodations, please approach a minister or usher.

RESTROOMS

For public restrooms, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and turn left to enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the Divinity School hallway.

TOURS

Meet a docent outside in front of the Chapel immediately following the service for a free, forty-five minute tour of Duke Chapel's history, architecture, and life.

LEARN MORE AND ENGAGE

Scan the QR codes to learn more about the missions and ministries of Duke Chapel and the Congregation at Duke University Chapel. Also, read this week's announcements, see upcoming events, and find out how to engage with the Chapel and the Congregation.



*The Congregation
at Duke Chapel*

chapel.duke.edu

919-681-9488

dukechapel@duke.edu

congregation.chapel.duke.edu

919-684-3917

congregation@duke.edu

401 Chapel Drive, Campus Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708