

# Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

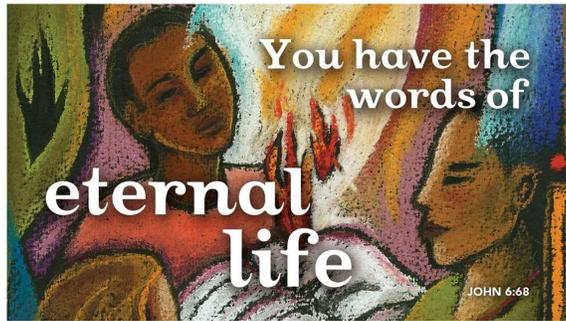
805.482.3847 [www.mountcross.com](http://www.mountcross.com)



*For those of you worshipping with us in person,  
thank you for wearing your mask (indoors required; outdoors optional).  
and social distancing outdoors when singing.*

*Let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card:  
<https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>.*

**Health and Healing Sunday/  
13th Sunday after Pentecost  
August 22, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**



## HEALTH MINISTRY SURVEY

During the prelude, we invite those on site or watching remotely to complete the brief Health Ministry Survey:

<https://bit.ly/MCHealth2021>

**PRELUDE - "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" (Smith; arr. Smith & Hustad)**  
*Guy Ervin III, organ; Carol Browning, piano*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris**

**GATHERING SONG - "There Is a Balm in Gilead" - ELW 614, verses 1 & 3**  
*As able, the assembly stands.*

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

The first system of musical notation for the song 'There Is a Balm in Gilead'. It features a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;'.

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

The second system of musical notation for the song 'There Is a Balm in Gilead'. It features a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.'

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

## CONFESSION OF NEED

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
 who looks upon us in compassion,  
 forgives our sin,  
 and heals our lives.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our need for God's healing grace.

*(Silence for reflection)*

C Compassionate God,  
**we confess our weaknesses and  
 our need for your strengthening touch.**  
**We confess that some illnesses stem from our own fault,  
 while others are beyond our control.**  
**We turn to you, source of life,  
 and ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ  
 for the gifts of true healing and life in you.**  
**Amen.**

P May the God of life visit you in your times of trial and weakness,  
embrace you with forgiving love,  
and raise you to newness of life, through Jesus Christ †,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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

C **And also with you.**

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE - "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" - ELW 752 (sing 2x's)

The image shows a musical score for a canticle. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;" and "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943  
Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema  
Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our  
choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil,  
we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Pastor Julie Morris

## **FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

*In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **SONG OF RESPONSE - “The Steadfast Love of the Lord” (McNeill; arr. Hunt) - CCLI Song #21590**

*(Sing twice)*

The steadfast love  
Of the Lord never ceases  
His mercies never come to an end  
They are new every morning  
New every morning  
Great is Thy faithfulness O Lord  
Great is Thy faithfulness

They are new every morning  
New every morning  
Great is Thy faithfulness O Lord  
Great is Thy faithfulness

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "Alle, Alleluia" (Schaner/Keil)

Al - le, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and music, © 1996, Bernadette Schaner and Kevin Keil.

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## **GOSPEL: John 6:56-69**

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

**P** The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

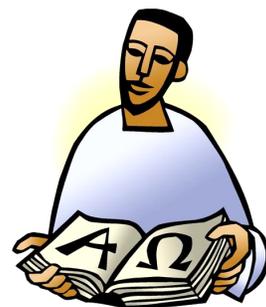
<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON - Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson**



*As able, the assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**SONG OF THE DAY - "Turn Your Eyes" (Romanacce, Lemmel, Winebarger, Stiff, Trout) - CCLI Song # 7120053**

*Verse 1*

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

*Verse 2*

Turn your eyes to the hillside  
Where justice and mercy embrace  
There the Son of God gave His life for us  
And our measureless debt was erased

*Chorus*

Jesus to You we lift our eyes  
Jesus our glory and our prize  
We adore You behold You our Savior ever true  
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

*Verse 3*

Turn your eyes to the morning  
And see Christ the lion awake  
What a glorious dawn fear of death is gone  
For we carry His life in our veins

*Chorus*

Oh, Jesus, we turn our eyes to You.

*The assembly may be seated.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Heal divisions among denominations and faiths and make us ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, bless the earth. Bring healing and aid to the people of Haiti, so devastated by the recent earthquake. In our own nation, bring rain to drought-stricken areas, and bring relief to all who are affected by wildfires and tropical storms. We give thanks for firefighters and first responders and pray for their safety. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. We especially pray for your healing balm in Afghanistan. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation among all countries of the world, in times of crisis, disaster, and war as well as in times of prosperity and plenty. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community, and comfort those who are saying goodbye to dreams unmet, relationships shattered, and life in limbo. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bless our Mount Cross Health Ministry, especially Evonne Kuchera and Jennifer Christeson, our Care Team, and our Prayer Chain, as they extend your love and grace to those in our community and beyond who are hurting or in need of assistance. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Surround all who are persecuted and exploited with your healing embrace and open us to their cries. Bless all who are in any need, especially (*those on our prayer list below*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS**

**We pray for Bob Anderson, Tom Andino** (friend of Carol Browning), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Lorraine & Mike Carpenter, Crista and Bonnie** (niece and sister of Karen Cherry), **Gail Cline** (daughter of Karen & Jim Gramacki), **Steve Doshier** (brother-in-law of Paul Crockett), **Steve Eng** (friend of Gayle & Cy Johnson), **Bob Edell, Natalie Faltin, Linda Frantz, the family of David Gale** (friend of Herb & Jo Holler), **Charles Hilley, Jo Holler, Nancy Jaeger, Michelle Kolder** (daughter of Karen & Joe Diehl), **Emilie** (friend of Carina McVeigh), **Lucille Miley, the family of Norm Morgan, Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson** (mother of Julie Fernandez), **Michael and Mercedes Olivera** (brother of Courtney Burke), **Anna and John** (sister of Mona Neuhaus and her sister's partner), **James, Mia Ranson** (granddaughter of Evonne Kuchera's friend), **Albert Rodriguez**, father of Marion & Bob Cole's daughter-in-law Amanda), **Gloria Saldano** (mother of Lisa Saner), **Larry** (brother of Lisa Saner), **Marlene** (sister of Lisa Saner), **Maria Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Chris, Wayne & Maria Truchan** (friends of the Burke family), **Jerry Warren, the family of Toy White** (friend of Becky Riley), **Howard Wullschleger, the family of Wade Young** (father of Kevin Young).

*Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests remain in the bulletin for four weeks. If you would like to add or remove someone to or from the prayer list, please e-mail the church office at [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com) or call 805.482.3847.*

A God who listens, we now offer you our own prayers, either silently or aloud (*pause*) ... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

**BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING OF HEALTH MINISTRY - Evonne Kuchera, RN, and Jennifer Christeson, LCSW**

P As people seeking healing and wholeness, we entrust our lives to the One who made us. We remind ourselves, each one of us, that we are not alone.

C **As people seeking healing and wholeness, we entrust our lives to the One who heals us. We remind ourselves, each one of us, that God's mercy is new each day.**

P As people seeking healing and wholeness, we call forth from among us those who wish to serve this congregation as our Health Ministry Team: Evonne Kuchera, Health Ministry Nurse, and Jennifer Christeson, Health Ministry Social Worker.

*Evonne and Jennifer come forward and stand with Pastor Julie.*

P Evonne and Jennifer, you have been called to serve this congregation as our Health Ministry Team. Are you willing to accept this call? If so, please say, "With God's help, I am willing to serve."

*Evonne and Jennifer answer.*

P Evonne and Jennifer, you have been called to care for the sick, comfort the afflicted, and encourage those who need support. Are you willing to care for those who are in pain? If so, please say, "With God's help, I am willing to serve."

*Evonne and Jennifer answer. Pastor Julie addresses the congregation.*

P Sisters and brothers, we are called together into ministries of care for the sick and encouragement for healthy living. Are you also willing to serve in this manner? If so, please say, "With God's help, we are willing to serve."

C **With God's help, we are willing to serve.**

P Let us ask God's blessing on Evonne and Jennifer in their ministry.

Loving God, we pray your blessing upon Evonne Kuchera and Jennifer Christeson this day as they commit to being our Health Ministry Team, among and with us, on behalf of this congregation. Support, guide, and bless them as they seek to answer your call and grant them your strength, your wisdom, and your renewal. Help Evonne and Jennifer to care for their own health and well-being, and help us all to work together to make ministries of care central to our work as we follow your call to preach, teach, and heal.

P And together we pray:

C Bless us as we minister together to the hurting ones, the lonely ones, the wounded ones, and the weary ones, and help us take care of ourselves so that we may serve you all the days of our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.



## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERING SONG - "To Whom Shall We Go?" (Browning) - sing 3 times

Ostinato Refrain

Je - sus, Je - sus, to whom shall we go, to whom shall we go, to whom shall we go?

You have the words, you have the words of e - ter - nal life. \_\_\_\_\_

Final

Je - sus, Je - sus,

Words: Cf John 6:68, and Music: Carol Browning. © 2021, Out Of The Way Music. All rights reserved.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

As able, the assembly stands for the Great Thanksgiving.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

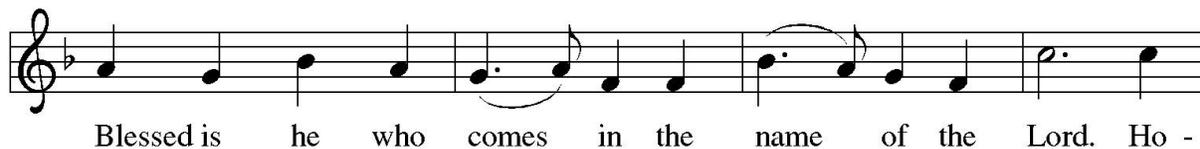
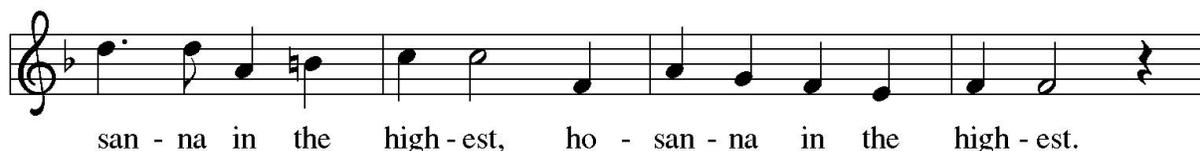
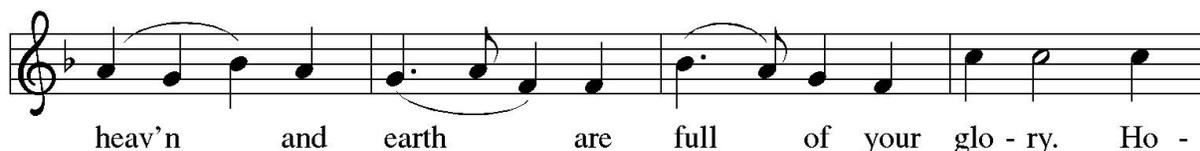
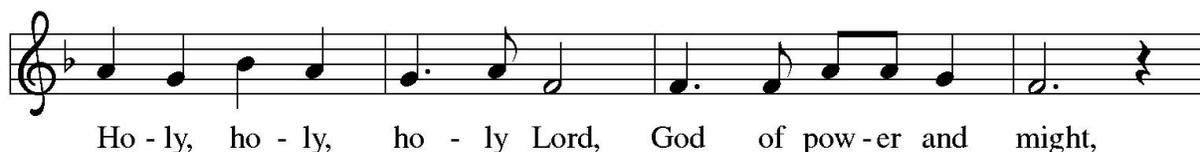
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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,  
for you are the source of light and life,  
you made us in your image,  
and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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:



Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, b. 1937

Music © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

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P We praise you, all-holy God,  
for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation;  
in the calling of Israel to be your people;  
in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all  
in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

On the night before he died for us, 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.

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**C Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

P Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Christ,  
and renew the world with your mercy.  
We praise you, all-holy God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit  
today, tomorrow, and forever.

**C Amen.**

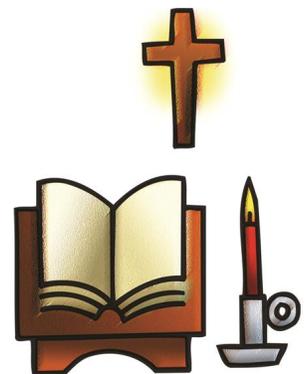
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

P Taste and see that the Lord is good!

*The assembly may be seated.*



## LAMB OF GOD - "This Is the Body of Christ" (Bell)



This is the Bod-y of Christ, bro-ken that we may be  
whole; this cup, as prom-ised by God, true to his word,  
cra-dles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949  
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949  
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### **PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (for our Livestream viewers)**

A spiritual communion is a personal devotion that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. As Martin Luther once wrote: "I can enjoy the sacrament ... every day if only I keep my eyes on the promise, that is, on the words and promise of Christ, which feeds and strengthens my faith."

As we distribute Holy Communion to the congregation here, we invite those on the livestream to offer the Prayer of Spiritual Communion displayed on your screen:



**I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart.**

*(We pause for silent prayer).*

**Fill us all with your love and grace, and strengthen us to serve the world in your name. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

***During Communion, for anyone who wants individual prayers for healing, Pastor Julie is available in the narthex, near the front doors of the sanctuary.***

<sup>1</sup> Adapted by Pastor Julie from a prayer written by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

## COMMUNION SONGS - "Healer of Our Every Ill" - ELW 612

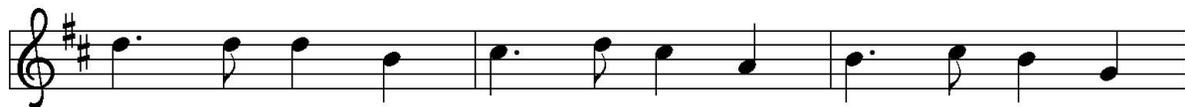
*Refrain*



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.  
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.  
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.  
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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## "Heal Us, Lord" (Haugen/Witt)

All:



Heal us, Lord, and re - new our lives. Heal us, Lord, and re -

*(Cantor/Songleader sings various petitions)*



new our lives.

All:



Heal us, Lord, and re - new our lives.

All:



Heal us, Lord, and re - new our lives.

Text: Marty Haugen and Tom Witt. Music: Marty Haugen, from *Gift of God, O Emmanuel*.  
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## “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” - ELW 611



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “I am this dark world’s light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast.”  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live.”  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I’ll walk till trav - ’ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## BLESSING

P May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. And the blessing of God, Holy eternal Mystery, † Holy incarnate Word, and Holy abiding Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

A Rooted in God's grace,

C **we joyfully witness and serve.**

## POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

***Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God  
by Lisa and Mark Saner in honor of our Marli and Jeffrey's Baptism,  
and by Becky Riley in memory of Paul True.***

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If you haven't already done so today, let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card: **<https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>**.

Join us for **Fellowship in the Pavilion** after worship each Sunday!

***Today, the Fellowship Team is providing healthy refreshments, and Health Ministry team members have resource materials available, in the pavilion after worship.***

Come to the Table: Mount Cross is offering **Communion reception in the sanctuary or in your car** from **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**. If you are unable to come inside, we will serve Communion to those who prefer to remain in their cars.

Please consider your vulnerabilities and risk factors before choosing to participate.

# The Week at a Glance

## TODAY, August 22, 2021

Children's Church Zoom, 9:00-9:20 a.m.  
Contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com))  
for the Zoom information.

Healthy Refreshments and Resource  
Material from our Health Ministry,  
after worship

Please enjoy refreshments in the pavilion and engage  
with our Health Ministry personnel.

## Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Stewardship Committee, 2:00 p.m.  
The Stewardship Committee meets at 2:00 p.m.  
in the Parish Life Center.

4th Midweek Movie, 3:30 p.m.

The 4th midweek movie for August is **Respect** (PG-13) at  
the **Roxy** on Tuesday, August 24, at 3:30 pm. Please  
email Joan Brundage at [jbrundage@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbrundage@roadrunner.com)  
with any questions or comments.  
Hope you can join us!

Fellowship Committee, 7:00 p.m.

The Fellowship Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. in the  
Parish Life Center.

## Wednesday, August 25, 2021

"Stories Around the Campfire" Bible  
Study at St. Columba's, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Come to the labyrinth area behind St. Columba's  
Church for "Stories Around the Campfire," for this final  
Wednesday in August from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. to discuss  
the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. **Bring a  
folding chair, your favorite beverage** (adult beverages  
permitted), and **join us** as we discuss the Gospel  
reading for the upcoming Sunday.

## Thursday, August 26, 2021

Just Mercy Book Study Zoom,  
5:00 p.m.

Our final session of the Just Mercy book study is  
August 26 **from 5:00-6:00 p.m. via Zoom**, led by  
Tracy Blois, Jessica Easter, Becky Gilbertson,  
Tim Helton, and Pastor Julie. **Please come  
having read the final four chapters. RSVP to  
Bill Stoll at [billstoll50@gmail.com](mailto:billstoll50@gmail.com). Zoom Link:  
<http://bit.ly/JustMercyMC21> Meeting ID: 849  
0965 9726 /Passcode: 069721/Dial in by phone,  
1 408 638 0968. For more information contact  
Pastor Julie ([pastorjulie@mountcross.com](mailto:pastorjulie@mountcross.com)) or  
Bill Stoll ([billstoll50@gmail.com](mailto:billstoll50@gmail.com)).**

## Saturday, August 28, 2021

Labyrinth Prayer Walk, 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome for our monthly Labyrinth  
Prayer Walk at the outdoor labyrinth at St.  
Paul's Episcopal Church, 3290 Loma Vista Rd,  
Ventura 93003). Contact Pastor Julie  
([pastorjulie@mountcross.com](mailto:pastorjulie@mountcross.com)) with questions.

## Next Sunday, August 29, 2021

Blessing of Teachers and  
Backpacks, 9:30 a.m. Worship

Next Sunday, as the new school year kicks off,  
we'll take the opportunity to bless any teachers  
present. All students (and teachers!) are invited  
to bring their backpacks to be blessed!

## Announcements

### Sunday Worship

The Re-Opening Committee met on August 5 to review  
our COVID precautions. No changes were made since  
the last meeting. We continue to require masks for  
indoor worship. Masks are optional for outdoor worship  
in the pavilion, but please maintain social distancing.

We also need worship assistants:

<https://signup.com/Group/7769976983269200115/>.

Thank you in advance for helping to  
keep Mount Cross safe!

### Help with Drive-through and

### Sanctuary Communion Reception

We are looking for help to make Sunday Sanctuary and  
Drive-through Communion possible. If you would like to  
help set up or as a parking lot usher, greeter, or  
communion assistant, please sign up at

<http://bit.ly/WorshipandCommunionAssistants>

or call the office at (805) 482-3847.

### Children's Church (Sunday School)

Join us Sundays on Zoom from 9:00-9:20 a.m. for  
Children's Church with a fun story and gathering!  
Please print out your children's bulletins before  
the meeting. If you need a hard copy, please  
message Joe at [joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com).

### Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Most of our programs are on summer break.  
Email Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) for details or  
questions.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl ministry could use additional  
helpers to knit or crochet prayer shawls to be  
given to those in need of comfort. To give a shawl  
or for instructions to knit or crochet one, contact  
Diana Hagen (805-482-6411).

### **Anti-Racism Work of the Week:**

*These links are offered by the Peace & Justice Team in a spirit of goodwill to those who are seeking to learn from diverse voices and take action towards reconciliation and healing. We invite everyone to be a part of these ongoing conversations as we learn together.*

And this week, a little longer video, at the intersection of race, misogyny and trans issues. **Munroe Bergdorf on racism, trans activism and acceptance** English activist and model Munroe Bergdorf, known for speaking her mind, talks to Krishnan Guru-Murthy about her own transition, the controversy that led to her being dropped by L'Oreal and why tolerance is not enough (38 mins).

### **Vaccine Sign-up Site**

COVID-19 vaccines are available by appointment at [MyTurn.CA.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) or for walk-ins.

Locations available throughout the county!

### **Vitalant Blood Drive**

Join us **next Sunday, August 29**, from **8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** for a blood drive at Mount Cross, benefitting Vitalant. Sign up at

<https://bit.ly/MCBloodDriveAugust29>.

There is a huge shortage of blood right now, so please consider signing up for a time and sharing the information with your friends and family!

### **Altar Flowers**

To request flowers for our worship:

<http://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2021>. The cost remains \$35.00; you are welcome to take the arrangement home with you after worship, or pick it up at Sanctuary/Drive-through Communion. If you are not present but would still like flowers, please let us know and we can deliver the arrangement to a homebound member to enjoy.

## **Mount Cross Health Ministry Program**

*The purpose of a Health Ministry Program is to help the congregation care for one another ... to attain, maintain and/or regain the best possible whole person health-wellness of body, mind, and spirit.*

In mid-2020, the Mount Cross Care Team was blessed to have member Evonne Kuchera, RN, agree to serve as a volunteer Health Ministry Resource Nurse and begin the Health Ministry Program for our congregation. Evonne has over 50 years' experience as a Registered Nurse, including Board certified specialty training. Her career included both teaching and direct care in numerous areas including Palliative and Hospice Care. Evonne is grateful for the memories of her wonderful patients and considers the opportunity to now use her medical knowledge within her community of faith to be an honor. Evonne lives with her adult daughter, Jeanne, and grandson in Camarillo.

Mount Cross member Jennifer Christeson, LCSW, has recently volunteered to join the Health Ministry Team and will soon begin partnering with Evonne to further develop the Health Ministry Program. Jennifer has a master's degree in social work and over 20 years' experience in the field.

She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, working at Adventist Health Hospital in Simi Valley, focusing on oncology and palliative care. Jennifer and her husband, Eric, live in Camarillo and have five children. Jennifer joined the Health Ministry Team in response to a newsletter article and comes with a true calling to serve. Together with Pastor Julie, the Care Team, and other volunteers, this Health Ministry Team aims to enable Mount Cross to meet the health needs of the Mount Cross community through programs and contacts designed to provide positive, Christ-centered responses to those dealing with their own health issues or those of loved ones.

### **More Ways to Give**

Thank you, Mount Cross congregation, for all the generosity you have shown in these times of trial!

To give to Mount Cross on your cell phone or tablet, download Vanco's free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play, enter zip code 93010, and choose Mount Cross. Please email any questions about giving and/or statements to Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at [jbrundage@mountcross.com](mailto:jbrundage@mountcross.com).

The Executive Committee has approved a request by Joan Brundage, Financial Secretary, to email rather than mail periodic Contribution Statements to donors starting with August YTD to all those donors for whom she has email addresses and continue to mail Contribution Statements to those for whom she doesn't have email addresses and for 2021 Year-end to all donors. Please review your email addresses in the latest church directory and if you see any changes to be made, please notify Joan Brundage, Financial Secretary, at [jbrundage@mount.cross.com](mailto:jbrundage@mount.cross.com) at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

### **Amazon Smile**

If you haven't already done so, choose Mount Cross Lutheran Church as your non-profit to support on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) so 0.5% of purchases will go to Mount Cross. Thank you!

### **St. Columba's Food Pantry**

Each Sunday, we have a bin where you can bring non-perishable food for St. Columba's Project Hope food pantry. Canned vegetables or proteins are always a good choice. Thanks for your support!

## **Altar Guild Opportunities**

Do you have an interest in the preparation of the Lord's Supper? Are you looking for a behind-the-scenes way to serve the church? Are you looking to meet new and old members of the congregation? Please consider volunteering for the Altar Guild. We are getting back to a new normal for set-up and clean-up and are looking to revitalize the Altar Guild. There will be a **training** for all by Pastor Julie on **Saturday, September 18, at 10:00 a.m.**, on the procedures to follow. Please let Carol Broderick (805-444-2898, cell, or carolbroderick@msn.com) or Carol Browning (office@mountcross.com or 805-482-3847) know if you are interested in this opportunity.

## **Worship Guidelines**

The Re-opening Committee met and has decided to stay the course for our worship. **Masks are still required for indoor worship.** Although some places have chosen to make masks optional for those who are vaccinated, we, as Lutherans, love to sing and there are concerns about singing indoors and keeping people safe, which is our first priority. Because we love to sing and out of respect to those in our congregation who cannot yet be vaccinated (including children under 12), masks are required indoors for worship. Masks are optional **outside** and we offer seating in the pavilion outdoors, but we ask you to keep socially distanced from those not in your household.

Thanks for your continued cooperation in following these guidelines to help keep Mount Cross safe.

## **Child Development Center Scholarship Fund**

Founding director Cathy Channels recently retired from our Mount Cross Child Development Center preschool after 33 years. To honor her dedication and commitment to the CDC, a "**Cathy Channels Scholarship Fund**" has been established. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you can donate online or bring/mail a check, payable to Mount Cross Lutheran Church. Please designate "Cathy Channels Scholarship" in the memo field.

## **Lutheran Disaster Response - Wildfires**

The 2021 wildfire season is devastating the western United States. A prolonged drought and extreme heat waves are causing wildfires to spread rapidly, which makes them difficult to contain. California is currently the hardest-hit state – the Dixie Fire, in Northern California, is already the second largest wildfire in the state's history, having burned over 505,000 acres. Tens of thousands of people are under evacuation orders, and hundreds of buildings have been destroyed. The fires are not limited to California; more than 100 wildfires are now burning throughout 15 states. Smoke from these fires is carried across the country, a sign of the far-reaching effects of worsening wildfires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with synods and social ministry organizations in California and other western states to develop a coordinated response to the wildfires. We anticipate that immediate needs will include food and other necessities. Long-term recovery will likely take years. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to "U.S. Wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires, until the response is complete.

Checks or money orders can be sent to: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Write "U.S. wildfires" on your check memo line.

Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or [online](#).

## **Lutheran Disaster Response - Haiti Earthquake**

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on Saturday morning. Over 1,400 people were killed, and that number is expected to increase as search-and-rescue efforts continue. Blocked roads are delaying the delivery of vital supplies to hospitals, which are overwhelmed with more than 6,900 injured people. At least 26,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, but the full extent of damage is still unknown. Haiti is also suffering through a political crisis and was hit by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night, which caused severe flooding in communities already damaged by the earthquake.

For over two decades, the ELCA has maintained a presence in southern Haiti through support for agricultural and sustainable development work. To continue our engagement **with those** communities, Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with partner organizations in the communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. In the future, other areas of support will include psychosocial care, water and sanitation, and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and livestock. We also stand with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti as it assesses damage and impacts on churches and church life.

Checks or money orders can be sent to: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Write "Haiti Crisis" on your check memo line.

Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or [online](#).

## **Lutheran World Relief School Kits Collection**

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is de-prioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Here's what they need:

- 70-sheet notebooks, wide or college rule (need 4 per kit)
- 30-centimeter rulers (can have inches too)
- pencil sharpeners
- blunt scissors (rounded tip, not pointed)
- unsharpened #2 pencils
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink please, it doesn't transport well)
- boxes of crayons (16-24 size)
- rectangle erasers (the pink wedge kind)

These items are very specific and cannot have any religious symbols or messages, U.S. flags, patriotic/military symbols/armed forces/camouflage. Pay attention to the Target and Staples ads—every week they have at least one of these items for 25 cents. You will find bins in the cabinet in the back of the sanctuary to sort your items, or just place the items on top of the cabinet and they will be sorted later.

If you would like the shopping done for you, please place your donation in the offering plate—making sure it is marked for LWR Kits. Melissa Henry is happy to make lots of Target and Staples runs! Last year, we assembled 197 school kits—let's see if we can break 200 this year!

## Our Afghan Allies Need Your Help

By now, you've likely seen the distressing headlines and images coming out of Kabul. At LIRS, we are devastated by the fall of Afghanistan's elected government and our hearts break for our Afghan allies, their families, and all those in grave danger of Taliban retaliation. Our prayers are with our imperiled Afghan neighbors and we stand in solidarity with all those who are living in fear.

At this time, the immediate evacuation of American citizens, our Afghan allies, and other vulnerable groups is our central focus. We remain hopeful that the U.S. military will be able to secure the airport in Kabul and restore order. Our priority is ensuring that a safe channel is established for evacuation.

LIRS is doing everything we can to save as many lives as possible and serve those who have already arrived in the United States—but we need your help.

On our website, <https://www.lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies/> please find five ways you can take action - volunteer, donate, advocate, pray, and teach - to support Afghan families.

## Next Sunday, August 29, 2:00 p.m.

Mount Cross' Music Ministry, in conjunction with our Classical Concert Series, is pleased to present an **afternoon program of flute and piano music** on **Sunday, August 29**, at **2:00 p.m.**, featuring our own Mount Cross talented musicians. There is no charge but you may contribute to a freewill offering to support Mount Cross Classical Concert Series programming, if you'd like.

The program will be in the sanctuary, with the doors open, and the flutists will play behind plexiglass shields. Since we will be indoors, mask usage will follow the Ventura County guidelines at the time. There will be a simple reception (punch & cookies, etc.) after the concert. **If you'd like to help coordinate or contribute to the reception, please contact Joan Brundage**

**([jbrundage@mountcross.com](mailto:jbrundage@mountcross.com)) or Carol Browning ([office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com)).**

Thanks to Joan Brundage and Barbara Cranfill from the Classical Concert Series for their support!

ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF  
BEAUTIFUL MUSIC!

*Music to  
Your Ears*

A program of flute solos  
and duets with piano

featuring  
*Justin Thai and Kate Fisher, flutes  
and  
Guy Ervin III, piano*

Sunday, August 29, 2021  
2:00 p.m.  
No charge (freewill offering)

Mount Cross Lutheran Church  
102 Camino Esplendido  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
805-482-3847 / [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com)  
[www.mountcross.com](http://www.mountcross.com)