

# 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>.*

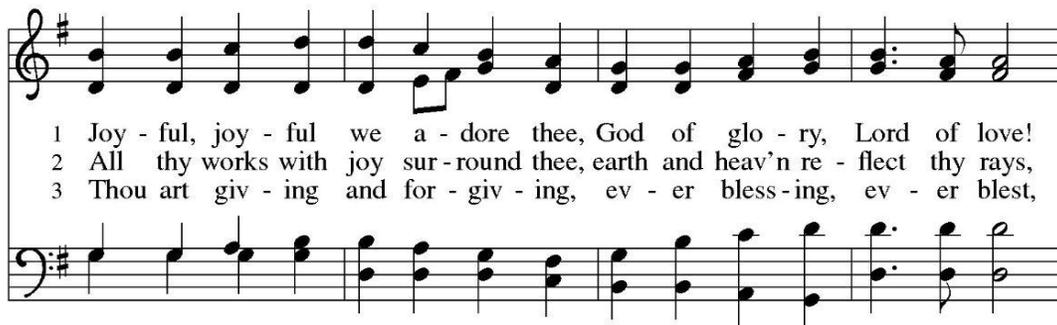
**Blessing of Students, Backpacks & Teachers**  
**14th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 29, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

## PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

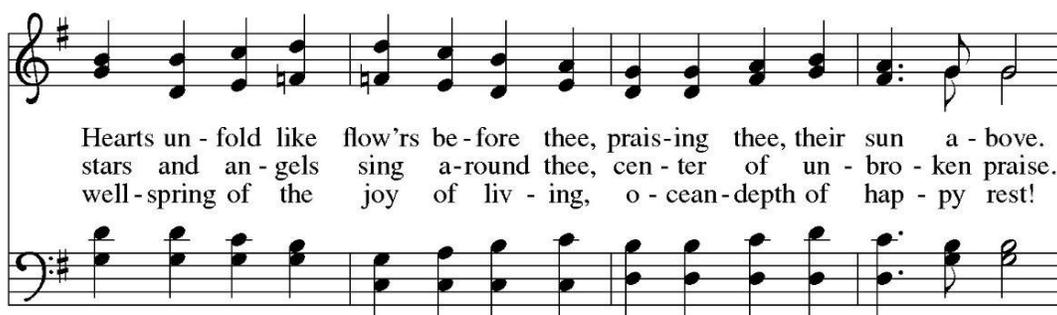
## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

## GATHERING SONG - "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" - ELW 836

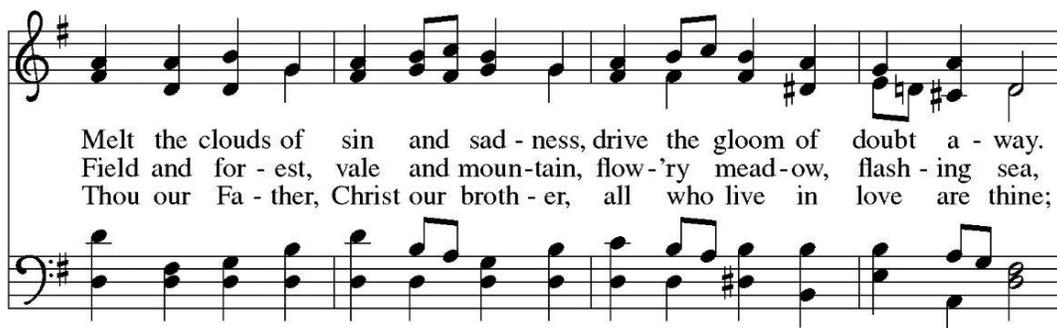
*As able, the assembly stands.*



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 sin in the presence of God and one another.

*(Silence for reflection)*

C Almighty God,  
**to you all hearts are open, all desires known.  
We come to you, confessing our sins.  
Forgive us in your mercy,  
and remember us in your love.  
Show us your ways; teach us your paths;  
and lead us in justice and truth,  
for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

P By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth,  
and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ,  
God forgives you all your sins.  
The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life.

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.

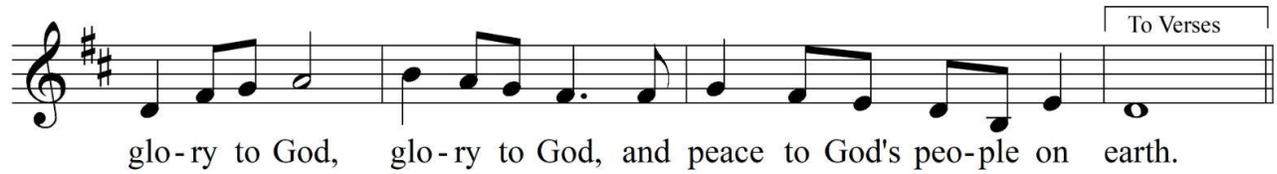
C **And also with you.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE - "Glory to God" - ELW 213

**Refrain**



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

**Final**

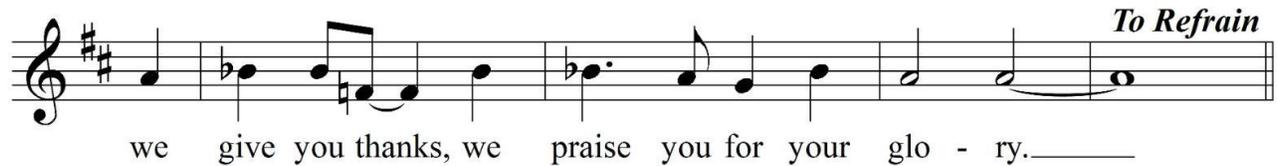


earth, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

**Verse 1**

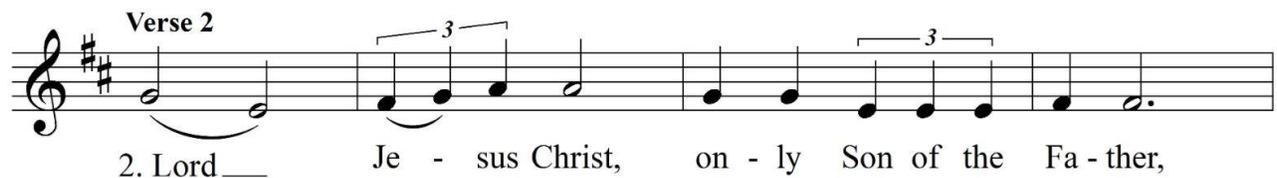


1. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you,

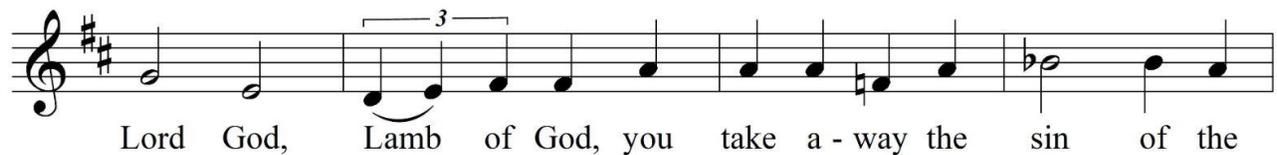


we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

**Verse 2**



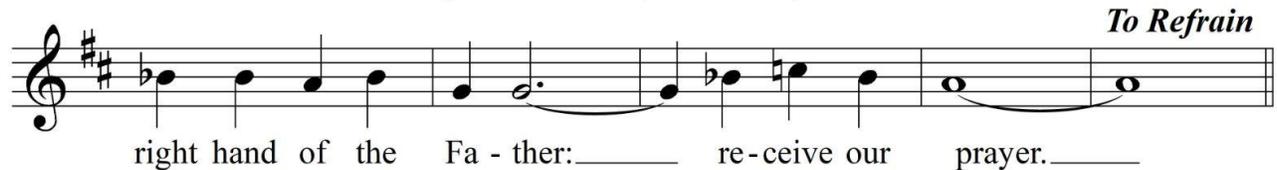
2. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Verse 3

3. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
 Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men. \_\_\_\_\_

*To Final Refrain*

Text © 2002, *Holy Baptism and Related Rites*, Renewing Worship, vol. 3, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music: Jeremy Young, © 2003, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Joe Zimmerly and Pastor Julie Morris

### CHILDREN'S SONG: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying - ELW 752 (sing 2x's)

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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.

## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **SONG OF RESPONSE - "Psalm 19" (Butler) - CCLI Song #1773823**

### *Verse*

*May the words of my mouth  
And the meditations of my heart  
Be pleasing to You pleasing to You  
May the words of my mouth  
And the meditations of my heart  
Be pleasing to You my God*

### *Chorus*

*You're my Rock and my Redeemer  
You're the reason that I sing  
I desire to be a blessing in Your eyes  
Ev'ry hour ev'ry moment  
Lord I want to be Your servant  
I desire to be a blessing  
In Your eyes in Your eyes*

### *Ending*

*May the words of my mouth  
And the meditations of my heart  
Be pleasing to You my God*

## SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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!

## **GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' <sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON - Pastor Julie Morris**



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

## SONG OF THE DAY - "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" - ELW 512 (sing 2x's)

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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 power of 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.**

*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.

Holy and gracious God, we pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and lay leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy and gracious God, we pray for the whole of creation, especially places ravaged by wildfires, tropical storms, flooding, or drought. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy and gracious God, we pray for individuals in positions of authority, especially in places where conflict rages, especially Afghanistan, and where the powerless are disenfranchised and abused. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A Holy and gracious God, we pray for all students, teachers, and staff beginning a new school year, especially those in our congregation and our Child Development Center. Empower teachers and school administrators and give them wisdom in creatively dealing with COVID restrictions in a safe manner. Guide students in their learning and development, especially as they juggle in-person and online learning opportunities. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy and gracious God, we pray for all who are in need in body, mind, or spirit. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life to those who are on the margins. Send your healing love and care, especially to *(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), **Alice** (friend of Barbara Burke), **Jenny** (daughter of friend of Barbara Burke) **Linda** (friend of Barbara Burke) **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 Engh** (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), **Dick Kuchera** (Evonne Kuchera's husband's uncle), **Rick Mahlke** (son of friend of Barbara Burke), **Emilie** (friend of Carina McVeigh), **Lucille Miley, the family of Norm Morgan, Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson** (mother of Julie Fernandez), **Mary O'Donnell, Jennifer** (daughter of Mary O'Donnell), **Michael and Mercedes Olivera** (brother of Courtney Burke), **Anna and John** (sister of Mona Neuhaus and her sister's partner), **James, 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.

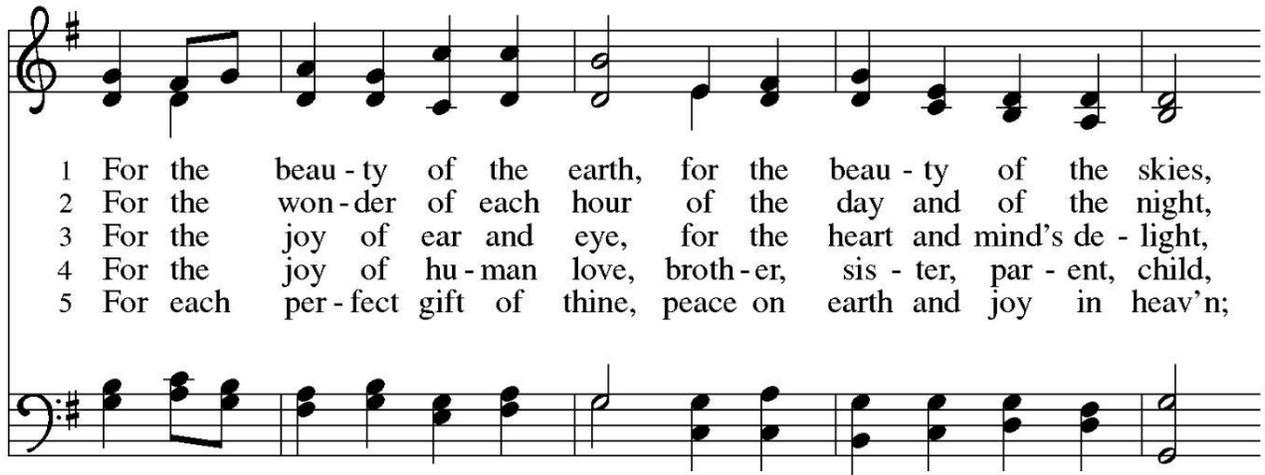
C **Amen.**

# PEACE

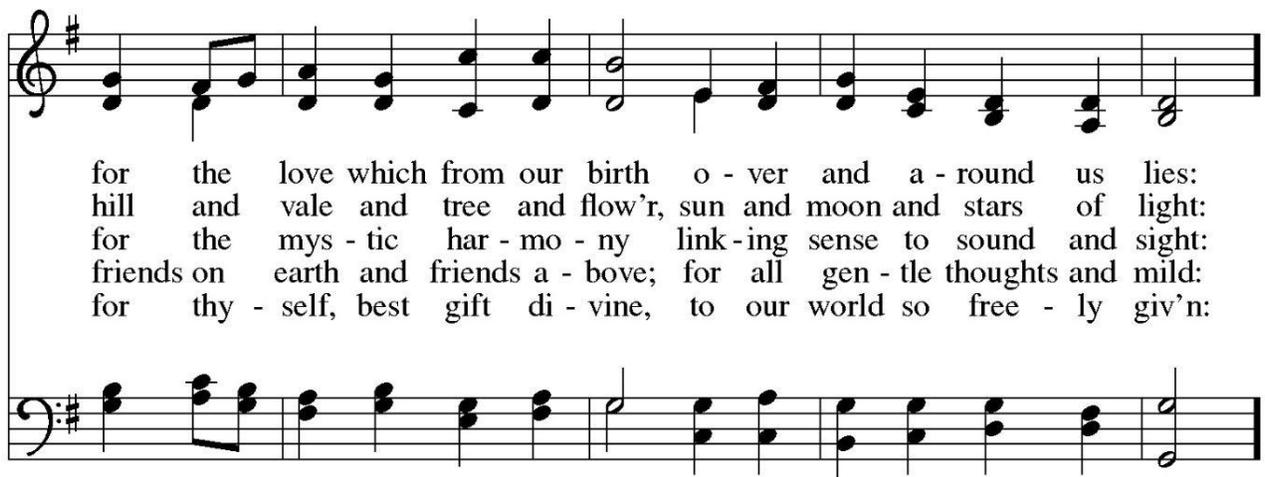
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERING SONG - "For the Beauty of the Earth" - ELW 879 - verses 1, 4 & 5



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

*Refrain*



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## 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:

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, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

P 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.**

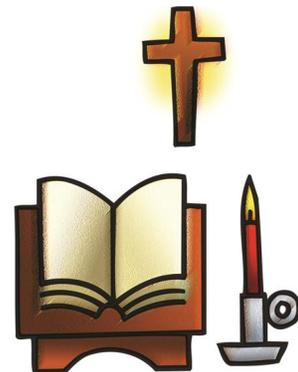
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

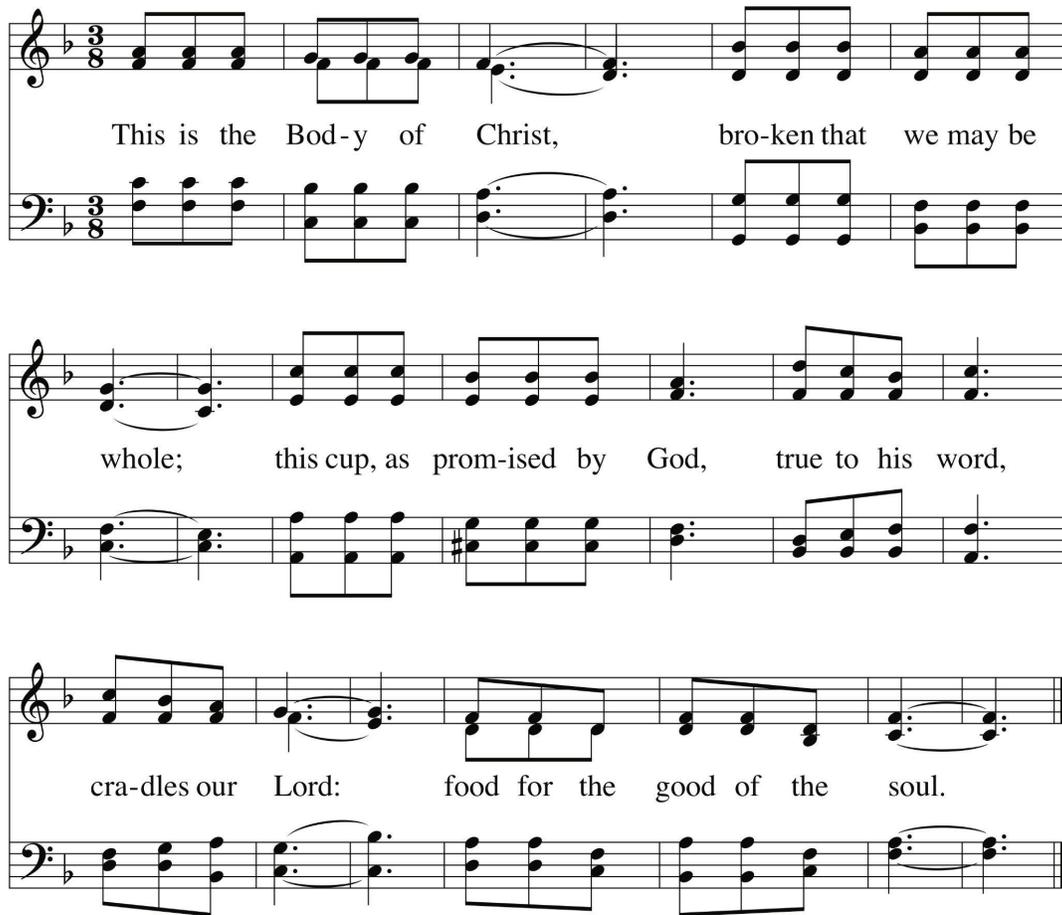
## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

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  
© 1998, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

### **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>**

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

Our Mount Cross Fellowship Committee is celebrating Hawaiian Day so we'll enjoy some Hawaiian lyrics for our first Communion song.

**COMMUNION SONGS - "Amazing Grace" - ELW 779 - verses 1-4 - sung in Hawaiian by Dan Nelson, alternating with English verses by all**

*(Verse 1 in Hawaiian)*

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind but now I see.

*(Verse 2 in Hawaiian)*

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

*(Verse 3 in Hawaiian)*

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
T'is grace has brought us safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home

*(Verse 4 in Hawaiian)*

The Lord has promised good to me;  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.



# “Christ, Be Our Light” - ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

## *Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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## 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 Susan and Jim Prosser in honor of  
the second Birthday of their Granddaughter Vera,  
by Mount Cross Lutheran Church in thanksgiving for teachers,  
and by Joan Brundage in loving memory of Barbara D'Addario.*

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License #A-722573 and CCLI License m#2022482. Images from sundaysandseasons.com  
used with permission from Augsburg Fortress.*

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!  
**Come to the patio for the Fellowship Committee's Hawaiian Day celebration!**

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 29, 2021

**Blood Drive, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Vitalant has a blood drive today at Mount Cross.

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

There is a huge shortage of blood right now, so please consider donating blood.

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

Today, 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!

**Music to Your Ears Concert, 2:00 p.m.**

Enjoy a wonderful concert of flute and piano music by our own Justin Thai and Guy Ervin III.

No charge, freewill offering. Simple reception and fellowship following on the patio.

**Acolyte Training, 4:00 p.m.**

All middle school youth are invited to join us for our Acolyte training at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Afterwards, we will be heading to the Edwards' house for pizza and a pool party! Please contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) whether you will be attending or not.

## Wednesday, September 1, 2021

**Web Design Committee, 9:30 a.m.**

The Web Design Committee meets at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**Hymn Sing, 6:30 p.m.**

All are welcome to come to the pavilion on Wednesday, September 1, at 6:30 p.m., to sing some of our favorite (and maybe some new) songs from the ELW hymnal. Masks optional, distancing with the chairs. Sing or just listen!

## Thursday, September 2, 2021

**Men's Breakfast Bible Study at Marie Callender's, 7:30 a.m.**

Men's Bible Study meets at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at Marie Callender's (185 E Daily Dr, Camarillo). Cost is \$15, including tip, but don't let the cost keep you from joining in. No RSVP necessary, but you can direct questions to Randy Churchill, (805) 469-9902 or [hrchurchill@verizon.net](mailto:hrchurchill@verizon.net).

**Stewardship Committee, 2:00 p.m.**

The Stewardship Committee meets at 2:00 p.m. (in the PLC or Pavilion).

**Young Adults, 6:30 p.m.**

All Young Adults are welcome for Bowling in Oxnard (COVID permitting). Email Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) for information.

**Executive Committee, 7:00 p.m.**

The Executive Committee meets via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

**Re-opening Committee, 8:00 p.m.**

The Re-opening Committee meets via Zoom at 8:00 p.m.

## Announcements

### **Sunday Worship**

The Re-Opening Committee meets on September 2 to review our COVID precautions. 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, 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. Programs resume September 15 so check the newsletter.

### **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.*

We're taking a break this week but will return with "work" next week.

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

COVID-19 vaccines are available by appointment at [MyTurn.CA.gov](http://MyTurn.CA.gov) or for walk-ins. Locations available throughout the county!

### **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.

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

### **Our Afghan Allies Need Your Help**

By now, you've likely seen the distressing headlines and images coming out of Kabul. At Lutheran Immigration & Relief Services, 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.

### **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!

## **TODAY, 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. 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  
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