

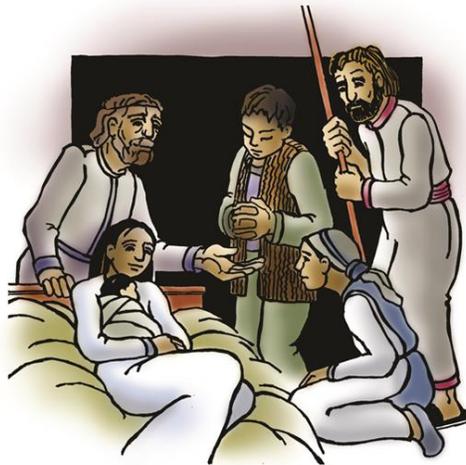
Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 www.mountcross.com

Masks are now optional at Mount Cross.

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



To the Parents of Our Young Children –

We are so glad you are here. We know how challenging it can be to get a family out the door to come to church. We hope you can relax and receive the gifts of God that are here for you today. Please don't worry about squirming children or crying babies. All are welcome here. If you feel you must leave the service with your child, please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

We want them to know they are at home in this house of worship.

To All Worshippers –

The presence of those with special needs is a gift to us and the Church. Please welcome all children and give their parents a smile of encouragement. Please greet those with special needs and their families, helping them to know they are valued and accepted in our community.

Please introduce yourself to someone you do not know.

Thank you for being the welcoming Body of Christ!

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



PRELUDE - "What Star Is This?" (Coffin/Althouse)

Mount Cross Choir; Guy Ervin III, piano

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
For it announces a newborn King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

Now is fulfilled what God decreed:
"That from the East a star shall proceed."
While outward signs the star displays,
An inward light the Lord conveys.

To God the Father, heav'nly light,
To Christ revealed on this earthly night,
To God, the Holy Ghost we raise
Our never ending song of praise.

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
A star of wonder that shines so well
On our Lord, Emmanuel,
Our Lord, Emmanuel.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

GATHERING SONG - "O Come, All Ye Faithful" - ELW 283 - Verses 1, 3 & 4

As able, the assembly stands.

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, † one God.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.
(Silence for reflection)

Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

GREETING

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 - "Angels We Have Heard on High" - ELW 289

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Pastor Julie Morris and Joe Zimmerly

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96 - "Sing to the Lord a New Song" (Soper/Es Ist Ein' Ros' Entsprungen)

Mount Cross Choir

Verse 1

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to God, all you lands.

Sing of salvation always; God's glory now at hand.

God's love shall never cease.

God comes to rule with justice;

God comes to rule with peace.

Verse 2

Let earth and heaven glory; let ocean depths rejoice.
Let hills and plans and forests sing praises with one voice.
God's love shall never cease.
God comes to rule with justice;
God comes to rule with peace.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L Word of God, word of life.
C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – “Christmastime Gospel Acclamation”
(Chepponis/ADESTE FIDELES)

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! _____

Music: Based on ADESTE FIDELIS, James J. Chepponis.
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GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20 (read by Pastor Julie, Miera Stouch, Kevin O'Farrell, and Stan Patscheck)

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

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

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

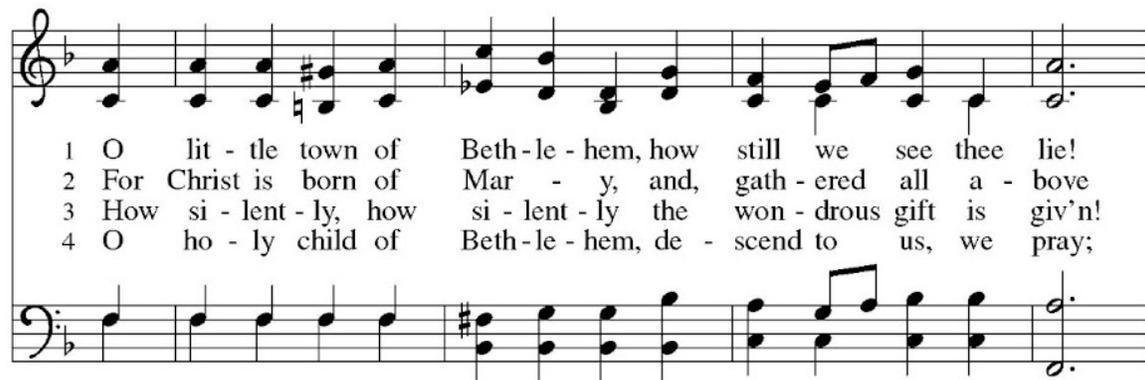
The assembly is seated.

SERMON - Pastor Julie Morris

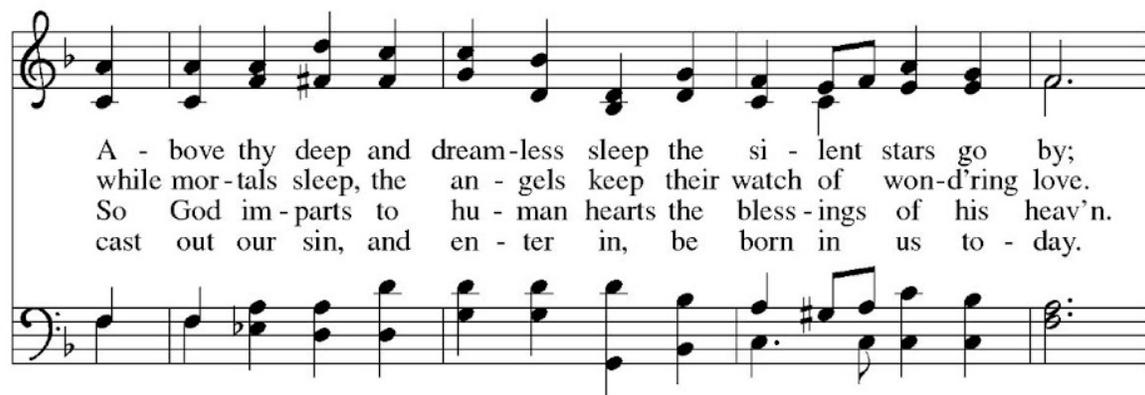


As able, the assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

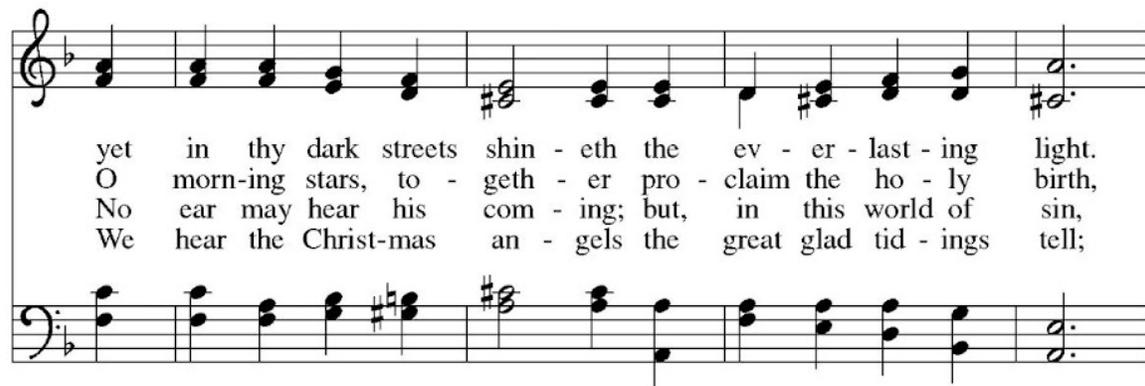
SONG OF THE DAY - "O Little Town of Bethlehem" - ELW 279 - Verses 1, 2 & 4



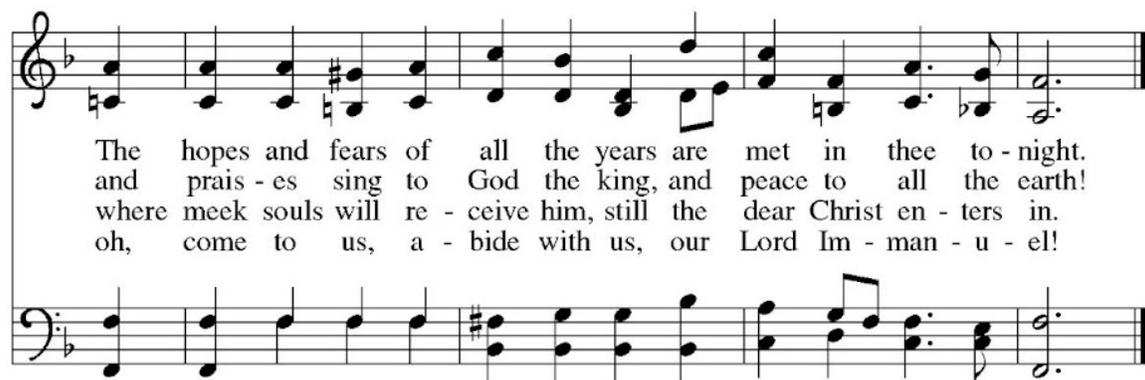
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.





PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. Bring relief to areas suffering from storms and other natural disasters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, especially the Holy Land, Ukraine, Russia, Iran, and Afghanistan, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease or famine, including East Africa. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, grieving, or suffering in any way, especially everyone on our prayer list ...

PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

We pray for Tom Andino (friend of Carol Browning), **Mary Aschenbeck** (friend of Mary & Ric Kienitz), **Mark Caceres** (brother of Becky Gilbertson), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Crista** (niece of Karen Cherry), **Kate Fisher, Marc Grasmugg** (son of Marion Cole), **Johnathan Hammersley** (great-nephew of Marni Engh), **Jackie Hatcher, Diana and Skip Hess** (friends of Judy & Bob Winters), **Jo Holler, Nancy Jaeger, Mike McClary, Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson, Heather Rogers** (granddaughter of Nancy and Jim Jaeger), **Julianna McKillop** (grandmother of Rachel Zook Briner), **Jeff Miller** (friend of Becky & Ken Riley), **Ansehl and Cathy Pike** (family of Marni Engh), **Dana Ripley** (father of Elliott Ripley), **Julia Rowley** (granddaughter of Nancy & Bill Rowley), **Neil Rubin** (son of Brian & Janet Rubin), **Norb and Marilyn Rud, Sally Salado** (friend of Herb & Jo Holler), **Lisa Saner, Dianne Selbrede, Cassie Sorenson** (friend of Evonne Kuchera), **Marie Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **and for all survivors of violence.**

*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 or call 805.482.3847.*

A God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God who listens, we now offer you our own prayers, either silently or aloud
(*pause*) ... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we
commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY - "Messiah" (Battistelli/Pardo/Reed) - CCLI Song # 7097981

Brian and Tiana Stouch, soloists

Verse 1

Long awaited precious promise
Son of God and Son of Man
Heaven's glory in a manger
Has come to us in Bethlehem oh

Chorus

Messiah, Messiah
A baby born to save us all
Messiah, Messiah
On our knees we fall

Verse 2

All we long for all we needed
Shining in a child's eyes
Hope forever death defeated
Because of this one only holy night

Bridge

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

Verse 3

Long awaited precious promise
Coming back again

Chorus

Messiah, Messiah
A baby born to save us all
Messiah, Messiah
On our knees we fall
On our knees we fall



OFFERING PRAYER

- A Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- 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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

P 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. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P We pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C **Amen!**

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

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD/INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P This is the table of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love God
and those who want to love God more.
So come, you who have much faith
and you who have little;
You who have been here often
and you who have not been here long;
You who have tried to follow Jesus
and you who have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you
and has promised to meet you here.



The assembly may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD - "Lamb of God" (Kraft/IRBY)



Lamb of God, the world's Re - deem-er, mer - cy to your peo - ple give.



Lamb of God, the world's Re - deem-er, may we in your mer - cy — live.



Lamb of God, we all im - plore, grant us peace for ev - er - more.

Text: Linda J. Kraft, Pastor, Holy Trinity ELCA, Trumbull, CT.

Music: IRBY (8 7 8 7 77).

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Holy Communion will be distributed in the center aisle. Ushers will dismiss people by rows, beginning from the back of the church. Please come forward to receive the bread, and then walk to the side to receive wine or grape juice (in the center ring). Place your empty cup in the trays provided. Communion ministers will bring Holy Communion to those with mobility challenges (or those worshipping outside who don't wish to come inside).

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.¹

¹ Adapted by Pastor Julie from a prayer written by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

COMMUNION SONGS - "Wood of the Cradle" (O'Brien)

Verses



1. Wood of the cra - dle, wood of the cross,
2. Shep - herds lie sleep - ing, deep in their dreams;
3. Star in the heav - ens bear - ing new light,
4. Come, all who hun - ger, come, all who thirst;



Bear - ing a life - time of joy and of loss,
An - gels a - wak - en them. "What could this mean?
Guid - ing the sag - es and a - ges this night:
Come, all who seek him, God's joy on the earth.



Who is your loved one? Who could he be,
Whom do you her - ald? Whom must we find? A
Where will you lead us? Where can he be, The
Find him a shel - ter, bright, safe, and warm;



Born in a man - ger to die on a tree?
child in a man - ger? Our God born in time?"
child born of mys - t'ry who died on a tree?
See in all peo - ple his love be - ing born.

Refrain



This, this is Je - sus the Lord, Here in the bod - y and



blood out-poured. Come, come, walk in his ways. Kneel at the



man - ger and rise from the grave.

“Away in a Manger” - ELW 277



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905



"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" - ELW 282

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**



CANDLE LIGHTING - "Silent Night" - ELW 281 - This carol was originally written in German. Tonight, as we sing the German verse, we dedicate this in loving memory of Marion Cole, one of our dear music ministers who is now singing with the angels.

The candle light will be brought to the persons at the aisle seats in each pew, who then will pass the light on to others until all the individual candles in the church are lighted.

Parents: please keep an eye on your children.

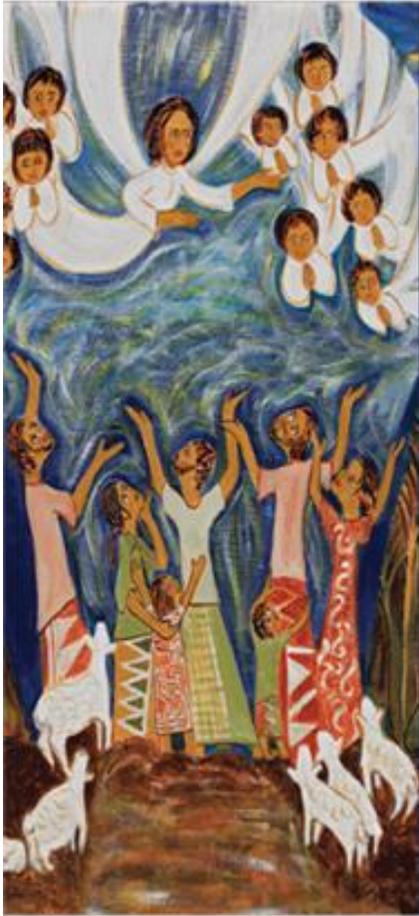
IMPORTANT: Please hold the lighted candle upright, the candle to be lighted at an angle.

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.



*Glory to God
in the highest!*

LUKE 2:14

As able, the assembly stands for the Blessing.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

P May Christ,
who by his Incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with his joy and peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, +
the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you,
and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG - "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - ELW 270 - Verses 1 & 2

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

DISMISSAL

- A Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
- C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

*Thank you to our worship leaders and assistants, technology team, and musicians!
Have a blessed and Merry Christmas!*



Poinsettia Dedications

Joan Brundage

In memory of my father, Robert Springer, and in honor of my mother,
Patricia Springer

In memory of Bob Brundage

Barbara Burke

For the glory of God
For the Church and its many leaders
For family and friends
In memory of loved ones

Paul DeBusschere and Julie Morris

In Thanksgiving to God for our parents
In Thanksgiving to God for our daughters

Betty Ertel

To the glory of God

Nora and Scott Fajnor

In memory of parents Charles and Lenora Wall
In memory of parents V.J. and Arlene Fajnor
In honor of Whitney and Ben Winokur
In honor of Jackson and Brittany Fajnor
In honor of grandchildren Eli and Willow
In honor of family and friends whose love and support got us through
difficult times

Dave and Becky Gilbertson

In memory of loved ones in the Gilbertson and Caceres families

Mary Goodenough

In honor of my family

Cy and Gayle Johnson

In honor and celebration of our children, Peter, Erik, Matt, and Summer.

Cy and Gayle Johnson and Family

In loving memory of our parents and grandparents

In loving memory of our nephew and cousin Hans Petersen

In loving memory of many dear friends we truly miss who are now with
the Lord

Kathleen Jones and family

In memory of Mark Brickley and James Jones

Evonne Kuchera

To the glory of God

Kate Lacalamita

Merry Christmas

Tricha Lewis

In memory of George Lewis

In memory of Diane Pappas

In memory of Kosta Depterios

In memory of Craig St. Louis

Carina McVeigh

In memory of Patricia Cervenka

In memory of Justin Meek

In memory of Marion Cole

In memory of Wade Young

Julie Merrick

In honor of everyone at Mount Cross!

Pastor Julie Morris

In Thanksgiving to God for the Mount Cross Church Staff

In Thanksgiving to God for the Mount Cross Church Council

Dan and Karen Nelson

Dedicated to the Love and Care of our Mount Cross Family

Nan Philip

In memory of my parents, Harold and Jannette Andresen

In memory of Jack Philip

The Rowley and Ovick families

In memory of our parents and grandparents

Barbara Sletten

In honor of my 16 grandchildren

In honor of my 11 great-grandchildren

Rosanne and Scott Stevens

In honor of our grandchildren Avery and Jackson

Joanna Wullschleger

In memory of Howard, Kris, and Andy. Rest in peace.

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

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day Worship, 9:30 a.m.

All are welcome for Christmas Day worship at 9:30 a.m., also available on our livestream. There will not be Drive-through Communion tomorrow.

Monday, December 26, 2022

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday.

(Our Child Development Center is closed until January 4.)

Pastor Julie, Deacon Cecelia, and Joe Zimmerly will be away December 26 until January 3. For pastoral needs, please call the church office. If it is after office hours, there will be information on Pastor Julie's voicemail on how to reach on-call pastoral resources.

For information on our regular programs, please visit our website: <https://www.mountcross.com/>

End-of-Year Gifts

If you are able to do so, please help Mount Cross finish the year in good financial shape by making an end-of-year gift. Gifts can be made through our [website](#) by clicking the green tab that says "Give" or by mailing your gift to the church office. Thank you!

Masking Guidelines at Mount Cross

Masks are **optional** in all indoor and outdoor settings at Mount Cross. We encourage all members to take precautions to protect themselves and others from illness. We continue to offer seating outside for Sunday worship. Our masking guidelines will change again if the COVID case rate rises and Ventura County reinstates a mask mandate. Thank you for your cooperation and care.

Announcements

Sunday Worship

We always need worship assistants, especially for technology. We will train you. Contact Vicky Edell at vickyedell5@gmail.com or sign-up online at <https://signup.com/Group/7769976983269200115/>.

Thank you for serving at Mount Cross!

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

For information on our weekly programs, email Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

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.

Towards a Framework for Repair – On Being Podcast

Through the ruptures of the past few years and more, we've been given so much to learn, and callings to live differently. But how to do that, and where to begin?

Resmaa Menakem's book, *My Grandmother's Hands*, and his original insights into racialized trauma in all kinds of bodies, have offered new ways forward for us all. He joins Robin DiAngelo in an *On Being* podcast discussion called "Towards a Framework for Repair" This conversation is not comfortable, but it is electric and it opens possibility.

Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/Frameworkforrepair>.

Altar Flowers

To request flowers for our worship: <https://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2022>. The cost is \$40.00; you can take the arrangement home with you after worship, or pick it up at Communion following worship. If you aren't here but would still like flowers, please let us know; we'll deliver the arrangement to another 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.

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. They could also use **boxes of breakfast cereal** at the moment. **Please do not donate food that is expired.** Thanks for your support.

Gifts of Hope

Visit the table on the patio to pick up your "gift cards" and complete your Christmas shopping with ease! Each donation will support rental assistance through Harbor House. For your donation, you get a Christmas card and note to gift to a friend or loved one instead of buying them an item that they might not really need. As our old friend Binney Nast used to say - "On Jesus' birthday, you get a gift Jesus would love." Keeping local families in their homes seems like a gift Jesus would love.

Noisy Offering - Laundry Love

We're doing a quick and easy collection extended through the month of December - quarters to support Laundry Love, a program that helps offset the cost of a laundromat. Once a week, Harbor House hosts a laundromat in Thousand Oaks and pays for the washing and drying of homeless neighbors' clothes and possessions. Add some quarters to the tube on the "washing machine" in the narthex, and let the homeless in Ventura County receive some Laundry Love.

Annual Reports Requested

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Annual reports from ministry chairs and coordinators are requested via email (office@mountcross.com) by January 18.

Family Faith Formation Committee 2023 Planning Session

Join the Family Faith Formation Committee on **January 8, 2023**, at **11:30 a.m.** as they set goals and create the vision for the year. This is a great opportunity to get involved with our Children & Youth Programs. Lunch will be provided! If you are interested in attending, please contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

Harbor House Glove Drive from Family Faith Formation

Help warm the hands (and hearts) of our neighbors at Harbor House this winter!

As winter has arrived, the Harbor House community is in need of adult-sized gloves. Children's gloves are welcome too. Gently-used or new gloves are appreciated. We will have an ongoing collection throughout winter - you can find the collection box in the narthex.

Advent/Christmas Events and Activities

- ❖ TOMORROW, December 25, 9:30 a.m. - Christmas Sunday Worship
- ❖ Sunday, January 1, 9:30 a.m. - Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion
- ❖ Friday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. - Epiphany Star Service followed by a Dessert Potluck

Save the Dates in 2023

Mount Cross will host Vitalant blood drives on Sunday, January 22, and Sunday, August 6. Sign-up information to follow.



Mount Cross Generosity Campaign

Please contact Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at jbrundage@mountcross.com with any questions or comments about the November YTD Contribution Statements you recently received. If you have not yet submitted your 2023 Estimated Giving/Pledge cards, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thanks to all of you who have already submitted them!

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
@MountCross-LutheranChurch



venmo