

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!

Second Sunday of Advent

"What Can't Wait?"

December 4, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE - "Es Ist Ein' Rose/Lo, How a Rose" (arr. Purifoy)
Justin Thai, flute; Guy Ervin III, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

GATHERING SONG - "My Soul in Stillness Waits" (Haugen) - Verses 3 and 4
As able, the assembly stands.

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness
 waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

Verses

1. O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of
 2. O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our
 3. O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -
 4. O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our
 5. Come, let us bow be - fore the God who
 6. Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the

glo - ry, your ra - diance shines in all who look to
 spir - its, our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your
 in - us, and in your ad - vent, draw us all to
 pil - grim - age, we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -
 made us, let ev - 'ry heart be o - pened to the
 heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun - tains and the

you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and
 Word, come, make us whole, be com - fort to our
 you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in
 main, o - pen to us the path - way of your
 Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of his
 seas, Lord of the stars, and pres - ent to us

D.C.
 shad - ow.
 hearts.
 ris - ing.
 peace.
 hand.
 now.



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism, as the presiding minister addresses the assembly:

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P 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 God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

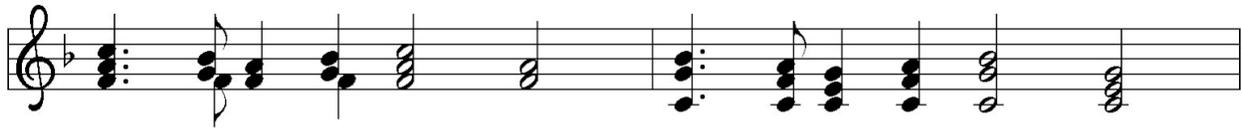
C **Amen.**

GREETING

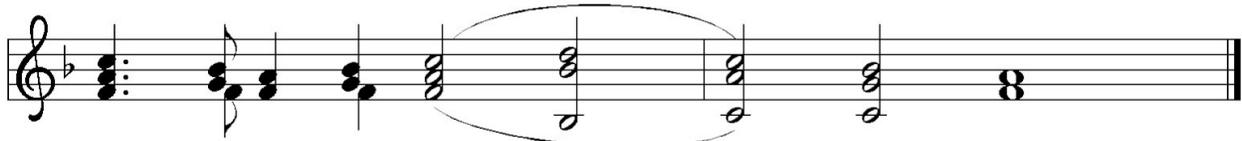
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE - "Kyrie Eleison" - ELW 155 - sing in Greek



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
 1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
 2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Chris - te e - le - i - son.
 Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
 Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

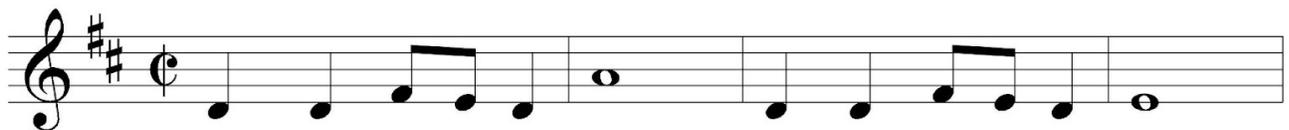
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Pastor Julie Morris

CHILDREN'S SONG - "Light One Candle" (Sleeth)



1. Light one can-dle for hope, one bright can-dle for hope.
 2. Light one can-dle for peace, one bright can-dle for peace.



Christ brings hope to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!
 Christ brings peace to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Words and music by Natalie Sleeth. © 1976, Hinshaw Music, Inc. Used with permission.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

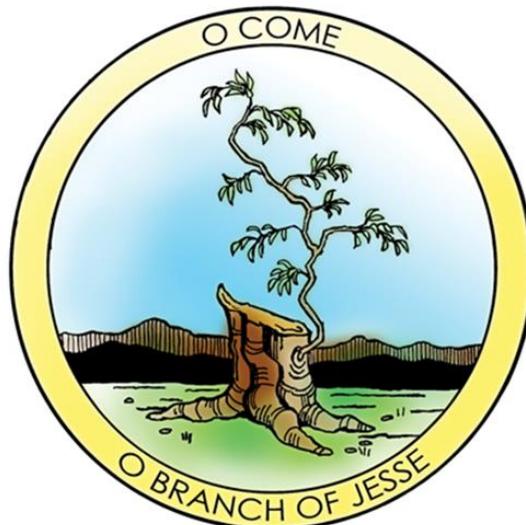
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 - "Justice Shall Flourish" (Psallite)

Refrain

Jus - tice shall flou - rish, peace in its full - ness,

jus - tice shall flour - ish in his time.

Verses

1. Give the king your just - ice, O God,
 2. Let him defend the needy a - mong the people,
 3. Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
 4. Blessed are you, Lord god, the God of Israel;

and your righteousness to the king's son;
 rescue the poor and crush the op - pressor.
 like showers that wa - ter the earth.
 you alone do won - drous deeds!

that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice,
 May he live as long as the sun and moon en - dure,
 In his time may the right - eous flourish,
 And blessed be your glorious name for - ever,

To Refrain

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills in righteousness.
 from one generation to an - other.
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
 and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A - men. A - men.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19. Psalm Verse Text: ELW Psalter © 2006, Augsburg Fortress,
 Music and Refrain Text: © 2007, The Collegeville Composers Group.
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SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "Advent Gospel Acclamation" (Pishner) - sing 2x's

Based on VENI EMMANUEL
Stephen Pishner

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

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

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

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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 - "Prepare the Royal Highway" - ELW 264 - Verses 1, 3 & 4

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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 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 As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. Bless our Mount Cross Music Ministry and all who participate in it. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation, especially our Mount Cross Fellowship and Welcome Teams, our Care Team, Health Ministries, and Prayer Chain. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones and for those who care for them, 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), **Crista** (niece of Karen Cherry), **Kris Dawson, Pat Dawson, Johnathan Hammersley** (great-nephew of Marni Engh), **Tom Heathorn** (cousin of Marni Engh), **Diana and Skip Hess** (friends of Judy & Bob Winters), **Jo Holler, Nancy Jaeger, Jerry Kochans, Mike McClary, Karen Nelson, Heather Rogers** (granddaughter of Nancy and Jim Jaeger), **Julianna McKillop** (grandmother of Rachel Zook Briner), **Norb and Marilyn Rud, Dianne Selbrede, Amadeo Serrano** (friend of Becky & Ken Riley), **Cassie Sorenson** (friend of Evonne Kuchera), **Marie Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Diane Tapangco** (sister of Bill Stoll), **Patsy True** (sister-in-law of Becky Riley), **and for the victims and families of the mass shootings in Colorado Springs and Chesapeake, Virginia, 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, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

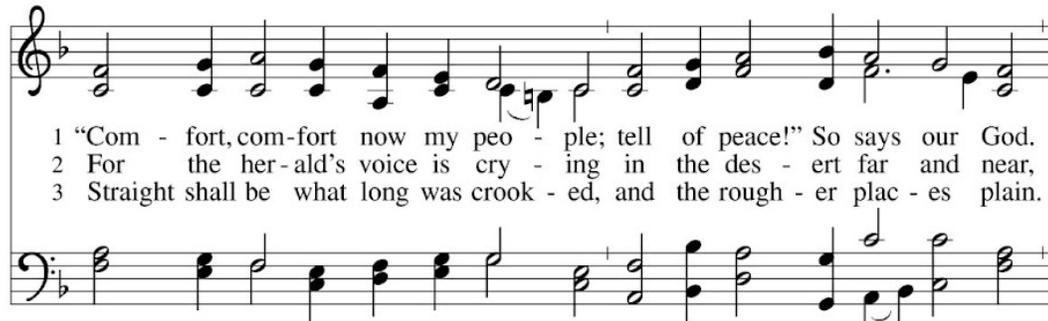
C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

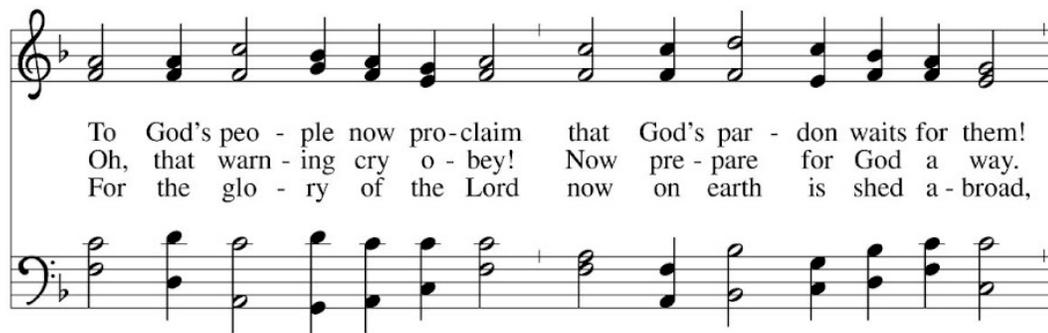
OFFERTORY - "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" - ELW 256



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

OFFERING PRAYER

- A Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
- C **Amen.**

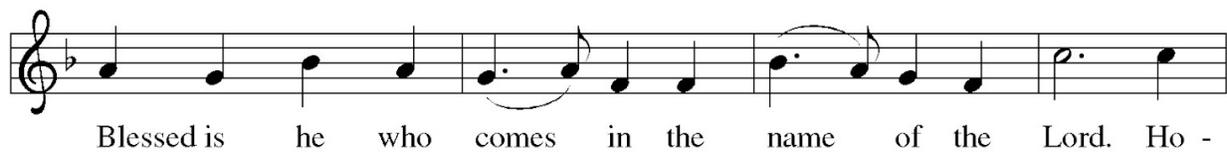
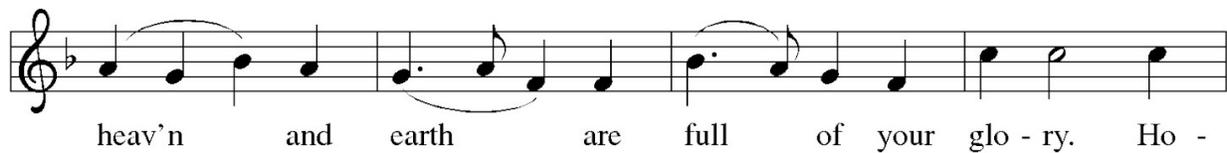


As able, the assembly stands for the Great Thanksgiving.

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.
 You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
 through whom you will also make all things new
 in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
 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. 800.442.3358.
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P Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
 our Salvation and our Hope,
 we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
 When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
 you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
 At this end of the ages
 your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
 and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both 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 Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

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 - "Come Light Our Hearts" (McCracken)

Chorus

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.

Tru - ly our hope is in You. Tru - ly our hope is in You.

1 To Repeat **2 Verse**

For O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance

shines on all who look to You in the dark, Em-man-u-el, come, come light our

Chorus

hearts.

For You, O Lord, our

souls in still - ness wait. For You, O Lord, our

souls in still - ness wait. Tru - ly our hope is in You.

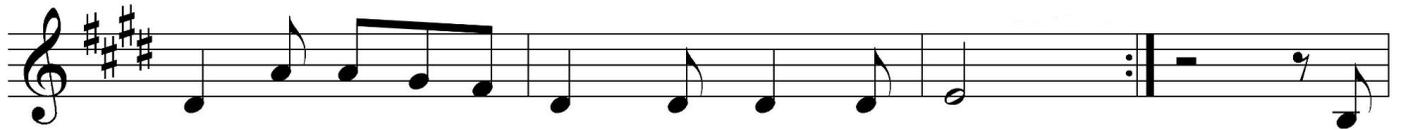
Verse

Tru - ly our hope is in You.

O Joy a - bove all oth - er



loves, in You we find more than e - nough. We come as we

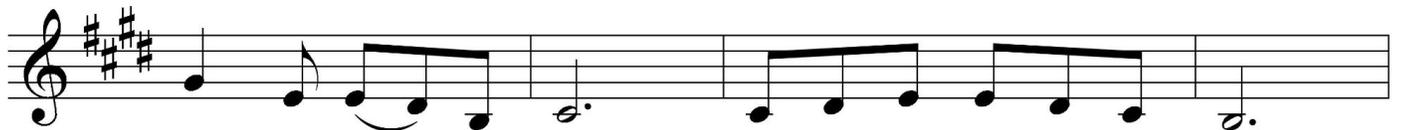


are, O heal and re - store, come light our hearts. For

Chorus



You, O Lord, our souls in still-ness wait. For You, O Lord, our



souls in still - ness wait. Tru - ly our hope is in You.



Tru - ly our hope is in You. Tru - ly our hope is in You.

Words and Music: Sandra McCracken, ASCAP. © 2014, Drink Your Tea, admin. by Music Services.
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“Blessed Be the God of Israel” - ELW 250

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

As able, the assembly stands for the Blessing.

BLESSING

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG - "Prepare the Way with Quietness" (Bjorlin/LAND OF REST) - Verses 1, 4, and 5

David Bjorlin, b.1984

LAND OF REST
American melody



1. Pre - pare the way with qui - et - ness, a
2. Pre - pare the way with hope - ful words some
3. Pre - pare the way through hold - ing back while
4. Pre - pare the way with fer - vent love that
5. Pre - pare the way un - til we reach the



still - ness in the storm, that will not speak the
mock but oth - ers crave, that makes the em - pire
oth - ers grasp and strain for un - just wealth and
tears down walls of hate and re - con - structs a
dawn of that new day when all our paths con -



wound - ing words that cheap - en or de - form.
flinch in fear and turn the fear - ful brave.
un - tamed power that add to hu - man pain.
kind - er world that jus - tice can cre - ate.
verge in Christ, and we have found our way.

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 Darryl and Allison Johnson in Honor of Nathan's and Andrew's Birthdays.**

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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!

Come to the Table: Mount Cross is offering **Communion reception in the sanctuary or in your car** from **11:00-11:30 a.m.**

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

The Week at a Glance

TODAY, December 4

Christmas Tree Set-up and Wreath Hanging, after worship

We need help setting up our Christmas tree and hanging wreaths, if you're able to assist.

Screening of *Emanuel* at Holy Trinity,
2:00 p.m.

See the Anti-Racism Work below for a description of this important film showing at Holy Trinity Lutheran. A carpool will leave from Mount Cross at 1:15 p.m.

Monday, December 5

Monday Meditation, 3:00 p.m.

The Meditation group meets on Zoom at 3:00 p.m. Questions, contact LaJean Wenzel.

Service & Missions Zoom, 6:00 p.m.

The Service & Missions team meets at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Questions, contact Gordon Henry.

Family Faith Formation Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Family Faith Formation (formerly the Learning Committee) meets on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Questions, contact Tracy Blois or Joe Zimmerly.

Tuesday, December 6

Women's Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study meets in the sanctuary, following the *Gather* magazine Advent devotional, "Good Things Come in Small Packages: Moving from Wanting to Waiting at Advent."

Peace & Justice Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
The Peace & Justice Team meets at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. The Zoom link is bit.ly/MCPeaceandJustice.

4H, 7:00 p.m.

4H meets in the Parish Life Center at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7

ROOTED and Adult Bible Study,
5:00 p.m.

The Wednesday Evening ROOTED program meets at 5:00 p.m. in the Prayer Garden or Sanctuary (depending on the weather) for community connection, scripture reflection, and centering prayer. For Advent, the Adult Bible Study is combining with ROOTED. Questions, contact Pastor Julie.

Fun with Faith, 5:00 p.m.

All children Preschool through 5th grade are invited to join Joe Zimmerly at 5:00 p.m. for "Fun with Faith"! Questions, contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

Community Dinner, 5:45 p.m.

All are invited to join us for dinner each Wednesday in the pavilion and Parish Life Center. Suggested donation: \$5/person. Questions, contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com)

Bell Choir, 6:15 p.m.

The Bell Choir rehearses in the sanctuary loft from 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation for our Middle School youth meets at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Questions, contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

The choir meets in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. to rehearse music for Sundays and learn anthems and special music.

Thursday, December 8

Care Team, 2:00 p.m.

The Care Team meets at 7:00 p.m..

Quilters, 2:00 p.m.

The Quilters meet at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 10

Music Academy Recital, 8:45 a.m.

A Ventura music academy is holding their recital in the sanctuary.

Al-Anon, 10:00 a.m.

Al-Anon meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Life Center.

Next Sunday, December 11

Advent/Christmas Program,
4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for our annual Advent/Christmas program, "The Jesse Tree," put on by our Mount Cross youth and music ministries.

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.

Emanuel, Coming to Holy Trinity!

National headlines blazed the story: Churchgoers Gunned Down During Prayer Service in Charleston, South Carolina.

After a 21-year-old white supremacist opened fire in the church, nine African Americans lay dead—leaving their families and the nation to grapple with this senseless act of terror.

Forty-eight hours later, in the midst of unspeakable grief and suffering, the families of the Emanuel Nine stood in court facing the killer ... and offered words of forgiveness. Their demonstration of grace ushered the way for hope and healing across a city and the nation.

TODAY at 2:00 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks will screen the movie *Emanuel*, an incredibly moving film about the tragic shooting where nine African descent Christians were murdered during a prayer service in Charleston, South Carolina at Emanuel AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church, followed by small group discussion to reflect on religion and racism in America. "Come and be blessed or outraged", as Viola Davis, one of the producers says, "but just remember." **A carpool will leave at 1:15 p.m.** from Mount Cross if you need a ride.

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.

Christmas Decorating

Help is needed **TODAY, December 4**, after worship, with setting up the Christmas tree (but not decorating it yet) and hanging wreaths in the church. A ladder will be provided. If you have any questions, contact Cy Johnson at clopsj@gmail.com or 805-388-3293.

Camarillo Community Band - Christmas Concert

The Camarillo Community Band (including our own Melissa Sobolik) is offering a **free Christmas concert** **TODAY, December 4**, at **4:00 p.m.** at the Community Center (1605 E. Burnley St., Camarillo), with a special guest - Santa Claus!

"The Jesse Tree" - Advent/Christmas Program

The Jesse Tree is a way of journeying through Advent to Christmas by hearing the stories from Jesus' family tree. Plan to come and enjoy this program of scripture and symbols and songs from our Mount Cross Youth and Music Ministries, **next Sunday, December 11, 4:00 p.m.**

High School Fundraiser - Christmas Cookie Dough Jars

Our high schoolers are selling Christmas cookie dough jars. If you placed an order on Wednesday, you can pick it up today. Suggested donation of \$10 per jar. Great Christmas gifts for friends and family! All you need to do is follow the instructions provided on the jar and your dough will be ready in no time. All funds raised will go towards our High School Summer Trip this year. Come, support our youth!

The MC Christmas Greeting Board is back!

Send your warm Christmas wishes to all your fellow parishioners while saving time, paper, and postage! Place one greeting card in the basket in the church narthex and the Fellowship team will post it on the board for you!

Oak Place (formerly Hickory House) Christmas Party

We will be having our annual Christmas Party for Oak Place (formerly Hickory House) on Tuesday, December 20. We will have traditional cupcakes, ice cream, soda, and Christmas music and present each resident with 99¢ Store gift cards. There will be a table on the patio to sign up to purchase one or more \$10 gift cards to the 99¢ Store for the 42 residents this Sunday, December 4.

Gifts of Hope

Visit the table on the patio during December to pick up your "gift cards" and complete your Christmas shopping with ease! We will have four different amounts for the alternative gifts this year, but 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

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.

Winter Camp 2023

Winter Camp is just around the corner. If you are interested in attending, please contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com) ASAP!

Family Winter Fest - January 14-16, 2023, at El Camino Pines

The age range for Family Winter Fest is ages 4-17. It is not exclusive to those younger than 4, but it might be tough sleeping in cabins with other people.

please let Joe (joe@mountcross.com) know **before December 10** if you would like to attend. For more information, please click this link to their website:

Family Winter Fest 2023



Mount Cross Generosity Campaign

Rooted in God's Grace, We Grow Generosity Together

If you haven't had an opportunity to complete your **Generosity Pledge/ Estimate of Giving and Time & Talent forms**, you can still do so.

These can be returned by mail, in person at the church, or on the church website for those wishing to complete the forms online.

Thank you to everyone who has already returned your forms.
It is helpful and very much appreciated.



Poinsettias for Christmas

Again this year, we're asking for donations of poinsettias to help our Christmas Eve service look festive. Each poinsettia is \$7.50. You can sign up online: <https://bit.ly/MCPoinsettias> and include a dedication if desired.

You can make the donation through Mount Cross' online donation website, <https://www.mountcross.com/online-giving> (choose "designated" and type in "poinsettias"), OR you can mail a check to the church OR drop it in the offering at worship or during drive-through Communion. No matter your method of payment, please write on your check or note on the online donation website: "poinsettias."

Responses are needed by December 15, please.

For those who want to take the plants home, poinsettias will be available after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service, or after 9:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 25.

A Christmas Act of Kindness – Share a Christmas Greeting!

A list of Mount Cross members and friends who would delight in receiving Christmas cards is available to anyone who would like to share a Christmas card greeting this year.

Each year, these cards are received with great appreciation.

The Care Team Christmas Card Suggested Mailing List with addresses is available:

- on the counter in the church narthex,
 - in the church office,
 - by contacting the office (office@mountcross.com or 805-482-3847) to send it to you, or
 - by calling Susan Prosser, Care Team, (805-657-6222) who can also email it to you.
- Use the list to add one person, a few, or the entire group to your Christmas card mailing this year. Be assured you that your greeting will brighten the day of the recipient and bring added meaning to your celebration.

Christmas With Areté

Come join us this Holiday season as Areté Vocal Ensemble presents its first Christmas concert in the group's 13-year history! From beautiful canticles to the modern carols you know and love, this concert is guaranteed to fill you with the spirit of the season, and leave you feeling merry and bright. Come to the Samuelson Chapel at California Lutheran University on **Sunday, December 18,** at **5:00 p.m.** to enjoy this special concert.

Areté Vocal Ensemble is an innovative professional ensemble of vocal artists based in Thousand Oaks, California, and includes Mount Cross member Carina McVeigh! To purchase tickets, please visit www.aretévocalensemble.org.

Advent/Christmas Events and Activities

- ❖ Gifts of Hope to Support Harbor House
- ❖ TODAY, December 4, 2:00 p.m. - Viewing the Film *Emanuel* at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks.
Carpool leaves Mount Cross at 1:15 p.m.
- ❖ December 11, 4:00 p.m. - Advent/Christmas Program for all ages, featuring our Youth and Music Ministry
- ❖ Sunday, December 18, after worship - Make sandwiches for Harbor House and trim the Mount Cross Christmas Tree
- ❖ Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service with Carols, Candles, and Communion
- ❖ Sunday, 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