

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 www.mountcross.com

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<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!

**The 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**

PRELUDE - "Celebrate with Gladness" (arr. Geschke)
Mount Cross Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

GATHERING SONG - "Gather Us In" - ELW 532

As able, the assembly stands.



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



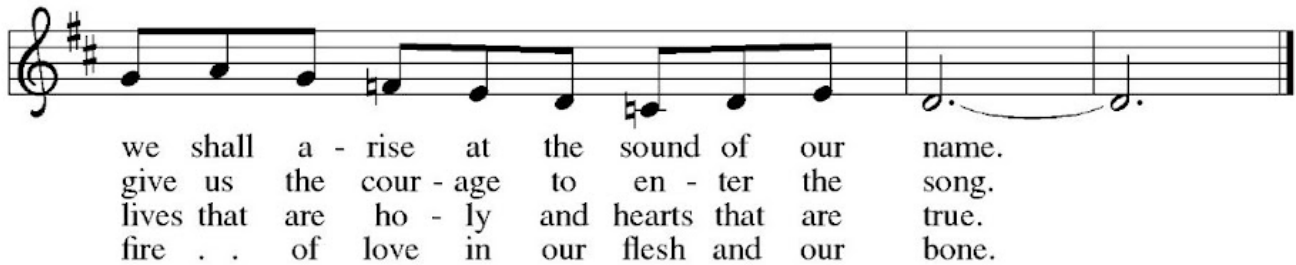
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P In the name of the holy Trinity, ✠ one God.

C **Amen.**

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

Holy and gracious God,

C **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.**

Some of our sin we know—

the thoughts and words and deeds

of which we are ashamed—

but some is known only to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness.

Restore us and strengthen us,

that we may walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

P God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
By the authority of ✠ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

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 - "Glory to God" (ELW Setting 2)



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

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.
Refrain
 Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
 Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus
 Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Pastor Julie Morris

Children through 5th Grade are welcome (but not required) to come up for the Children's Message and then follow the staff to the Parish Life Center for an age-appropriate Bible lesson and activity. They will return to the sanctuary before Holy Communion. There are faith activity bags available near the front door for children who would rather stay in church.



CHILDREN'S SONG - "God Welcomes All" - ACS 978 (sing 2 times)

The image shows a musical score for a children's song. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of the song, and the second system covers the second line. The music is simple, using mostly quarter and eighth notes with some rests.

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.

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FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

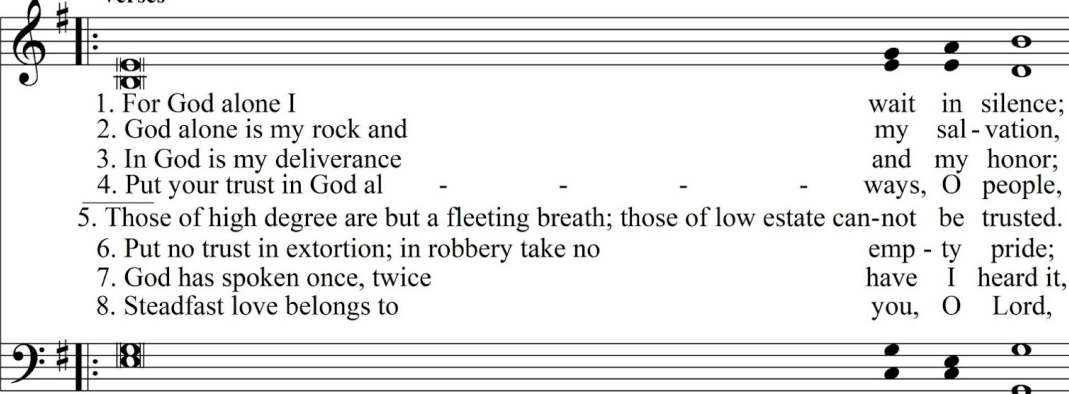
PSALM 62 - "In God Alone" (Taizé)

Refrain

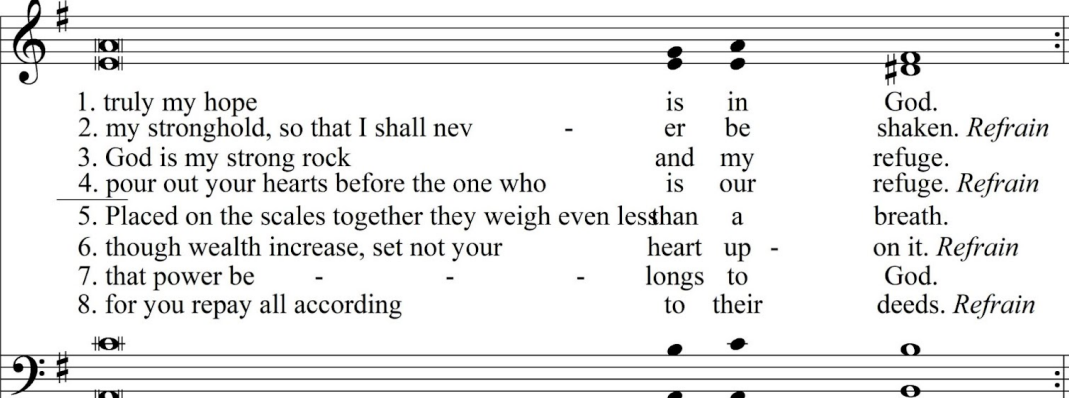


In God a - lone my soul can find rest and peace, in
 God my peace and joy. On - ly in God my
 soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.

Verses



1. For God alone I wait in silence;
 2. God alone is my rock and my sal - vation;
 3. In God is my deliverance and my honor;
 4. Put your trust in God al - - - ways, O people,
 5. Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can-not be trusted.
 6. Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no emp - ty pride;
 7. God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
 8. Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,



1. truly my hope is in God.
 2. my stronghold, so that I shall nev - er be shaken. *Refrain*
 3. God is my strong rock and my refuge.
 4. pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge. *Refrain*
 5. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.
 6. though wealth increase, set not your heart up - on it. *Refrain*
 7. that power be - - - longs to God.
 8. for you repay all according to their deeds. *Refrain*

Refrain Words: Psalm 62:1. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994. ©Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.
 Verse Text (Psalm 62:5-12)t: from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America., admin. Augsburg Fortress Publications,
 Psalm Tone: © 2011, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – “Alleluia” (ELW Setting 2)



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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

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

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

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

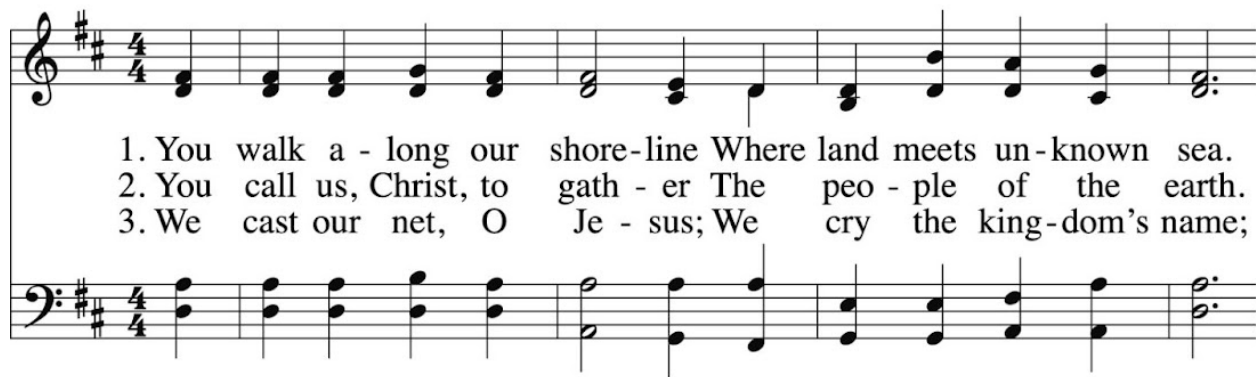
The assembly is seated.

SERMON - Pastor Julie Morris

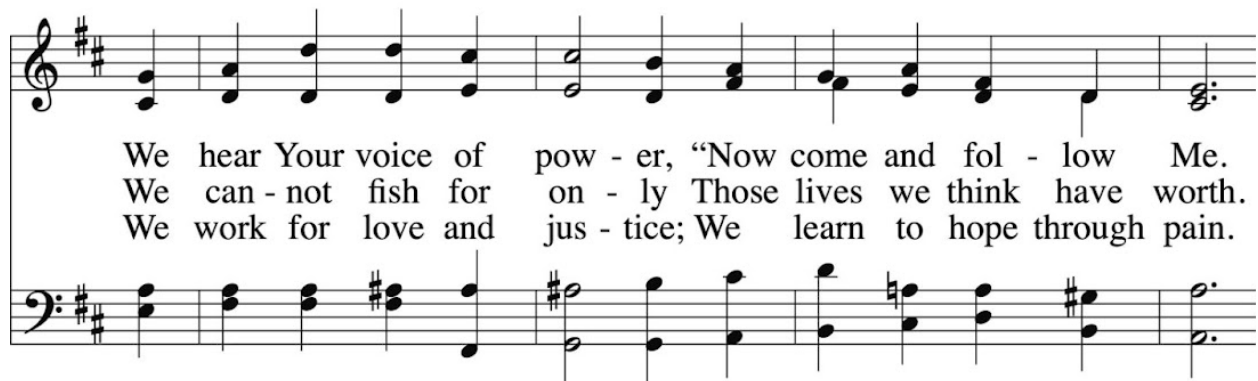


As able, the assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

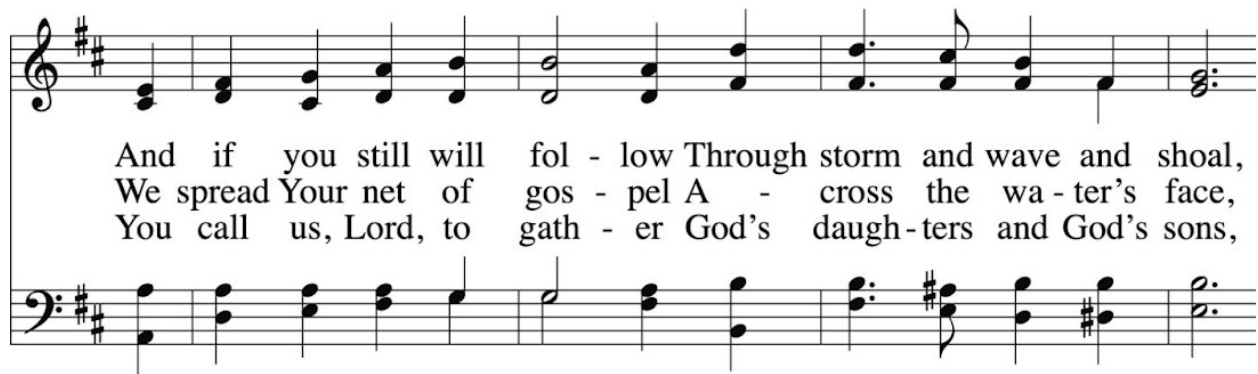
SONG OF THE DAY - "You Walk Along Our Shoreline" (Dunstan/AURELIA)



1. You walk a - long our shore-line Where land meets un-known sea.
2. You call us, Christ, to gath - er The peo - ple of the earth.
3. We cast our net, O Je - sus; We cry the king-dom's name;



We hear Your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low Me.
We can - not fish for on - ly Those lives we think have worth.
We work for love and jus - tice; We learn to hope through pain.



And if you still will fol - low Through storm and wave and shoal,
We spread Your net of gos - pel A - cross the wa - ter's face,
You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,



Then I will make you fish - ers But of the hu - man soul."
Our boat a com-mon shel - ter For all found by Your grace.
To let Your judg-ment heal us So that all may be one.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: AURELIA, 7 6 7 6 D; Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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.**

Note: The term "catholic" (lower case "c") does not refer to any specific denomination or group of Christians. The term comes from two Greek words that together mean "throughout the whole." So when the creed states, "I believe in the holy catholic church," it refers to the whole or universal Christian church in all times and places.

The assembly may be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of light, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. Send relief to areas suffering from natural disasters. God of light, **hear our prayer.**

A God who proclaims judgment and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. Help us to work for peace in our own country, the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia, South Sudan, and wherever conflict rages. God of light, **hear our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, in this Human Trafficking Prevention Month, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain, especially all on our prayer list ...

PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

We pray for Rachel A. and her family (friend of Chrissy O'Farrell), **Tom Andino** (friend of Carol Browning), **the family of Candelaria Borjon** (friend of Becky Riley), **Barbara Burke, the family of Kevin Burke** (relative of Gordon & Melissa Henry), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **John Colby, Kris Dawson, Sonja Demeter, the family of Shelli Griffin (including the Burke family), LuAnn Hayden** (sister of Bill Dawson), **Patrick Heckman** (relative of Marni Engh), **Gordon Henry, Rebecca Henry, the family of Jo Holler, Susan Klein, Jerry Kochans, Laurel Krsek** (sister of Dan Nelson), **Patricia LaCalamita, David Ludwig** (friend of Jim & Susan Prosser), **Jack & Penny Luhrsen, Michael McCandless** (relative of Melissa Henry), **Julianna McKillop** (grandmother of Rachel Zook-Brimer), **the family of Kathleen Miller, Karen Nelson, Angie Patscheck** (sister-in-law of Stan Patscheck), **Michael Potts** (friend of Becky & Ken Riley), **Ellie Ranson** (friend of Evonne Kuchera), **Dianne Selbrede, Carol Smith** (friend of Marni Engh), **Marie Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Waldon Swenson** (brother of Janet Rubin), **Michaeleen and Michael Valen** (sister and brother-in-law of Bill Rowley), and **Nancy Zeph** (niece of Barbara Sletten).

*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.*

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

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

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY - "Fairest Lord Jesus" (arr. Larson)

Mount Cross Handbell Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

A Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

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.

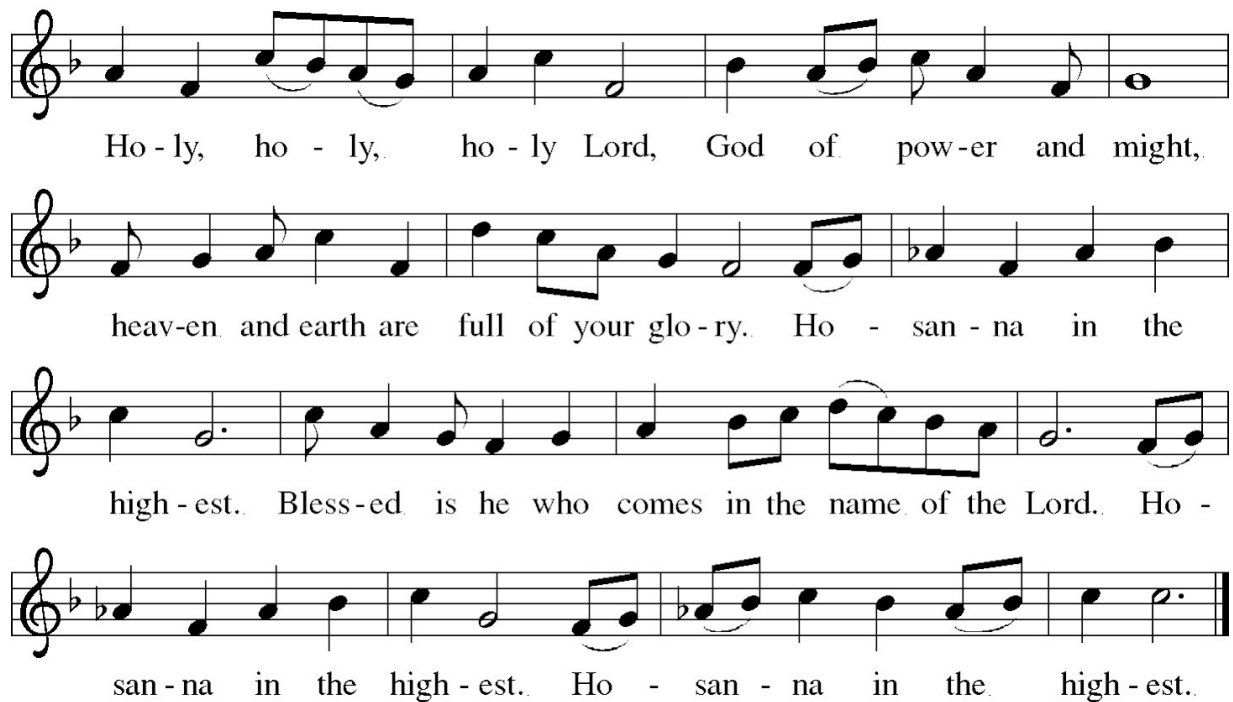
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty and merciful God,
because 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.

P And so, with the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P We give thanks to you, O God,
for the goodness and love which 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.

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.

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

P Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts.
Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son.
And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup
may be filled with your life and goodness.

With your faithful 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 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/INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.



The assembly may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD - "Lamb of God" (ELW Setting 2)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace."

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

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.

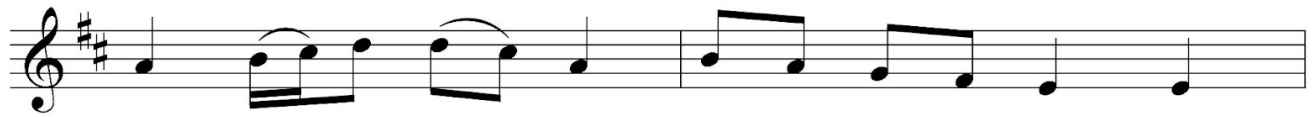
COMMUNION SONGS - "Light Shone in Darkness" (Dufner/ADORO TE DEVOTE)



1. Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,
 2. Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
 3. Light shone in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;



bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture's rev - e - la - tion.
 Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion.
 Christ's bod - y, groan - ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion,



All that has be - ing, cry in a - dor - a - tion,
 Sing, earth and heav - en, hymns of jub - i - la - tion,
 longs for God's jus - tice, glob - al trans - for - ma - tion,

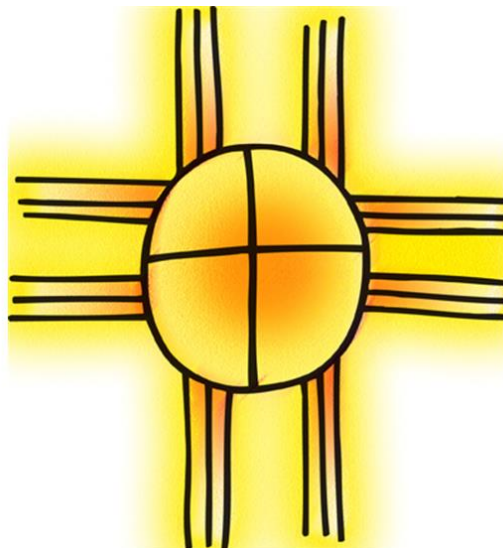


"Praise__ for the light. A - men! A - men!"
 praise__ for the light. A - men! A - men!"
 prays__ for the light. A - men! A - men!"

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, 1939- © 2001, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: ADORO TE DEVOTE (Gregorian chant); arr. The Collegeville Composers Group,

Arr. © 2014, 2015. Published by the Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN 56321.



**“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” (Romanacce, Lemmel, Winebarger, Stiff, Trout) -
CCLI Song # 7120053**

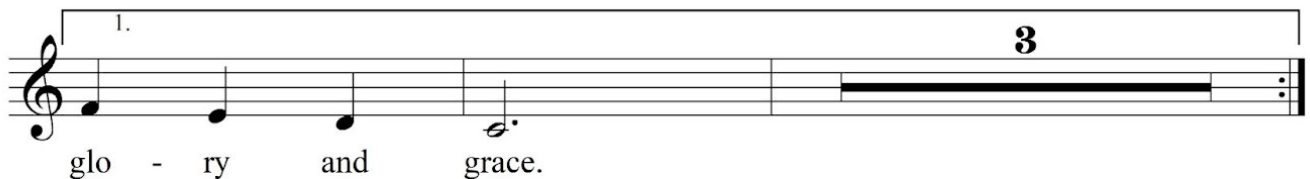
Verses 1-3



1. Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, look full in His won-der-ful face.
2. Turn your eyes to the hill - side where jus - tice and mer - cy em-brace.
3. Turn your eyes to the morn - ing and see Christ the li - on a - wake.



And the things of earth will grow strange-ly dim in the light of His
There the Son of God gave his life for us, and our meas-ure-less
What a glo - rious dawn, fear of death is gone, for we car - ry His



glo - ry and grace.



debt was e - rased.
life in our veins.

Je - sus, to You we lift our eyes.



Je - sus, our glo-ry and our prize.

We a-dore You, be-hold You, our



Sav-ior ev - er true. Oh, Je-sus, we turn our eyes to You.



turn our eyes to You.

Verse 4



4. Turn your eyes to the heav - ens, our King will re - turn for His own.



Ev-'ry knee will bow, ev-'ry tongue will shout, "All glo-ry to Je-sus a-lone!"

Chorus



Je - sus, to You we lift our eyes.



Je - sus, our glo-ry and our prize.

We a-dore You, be-hold You, our



Sav-ior ev - er true. Oh, Je-sus, we turn our eyes to You.

Oh,



Je - sus, we turn our eyes

to You.

Original words and music: Helen H. Lemmel. Additional words and music: George Romanacce, Nic Trout, Kevin Winebarger, and Nathan Stiff. CCLI Song # 7120053. © 2019, Sovereign Grace Praise | Sovereign Grace Songs | Sovereign Grace Worship. For use solely with the SongSelect® terms of use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

C **Amen.**

As able, the assembly stands for the Final Blessing.

BLESSING

P God who names you,
✙ Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
bless you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG - "Go to the World" - ACS 991

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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 Cy and Gayle Johnson and Family in loving memory of our Dad and Grandpa, Marvin Johnson.

The pink rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of baby Stella to parents Wendy Alvarez and Simon Mere, and brothers Simon and Valentino.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE License #A-706290 and CCLI License #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 Table: Mount Cross is offering **Communion reception in the sanctuary or in your car** from **11:00-11:15 a.m.**

The Week at a Glance

TODAY, January 21

Vitalant Blood Drive, 8:00 a.m.-Noon

The Vitalant Bloodmobile is in the parking lot until Noon and may have some openings to give blood.

Sandwich Making, after worship

It didn't happen last Sunday, but this week, we need to make 100 peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for Harbor House. Many hands make light work!

Budget Presentation, 11:00 a.m.

Treasurer Rick Gardner will answer questions about the 2024 Budget in the Parish Life Center.

Monday, January 22

Youth Group, 5:00 p.m.

The High School Youth Group meets at 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Joe Zimmerly (joe@mountcross.com).

Men's Al-Anon, 7:00 p.m.

A Men's Al-Anon group meets in the Parish Life Center at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 23

Women's Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

The Women's Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Questions, contact Pastor Julie.

Wednesday, January 24

Meditation, 10:00 a.m.

The Meditation group meets on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. Questions, contact LaJean Wenzel.

ROOTED, 5:00 p.m.

Our program for Faith Formation parents and others is on Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45 p.m. Questions, please contact Pastor Julie, pastorjulie@mountcross.com.

Fun with Faith, 5:00 p.m.

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: \$7/adult; \$5/children 10 & under. Questions, contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

The Bell Choir rehearses in the sanctuary loft from 6:15-7:15 p.m. (Carol Browning will be away but the group will be rehearsing with a substitute director.)

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).

All Church Reads Book Study,
6:30 p.m.

See the announcement below about this book study
led by Allison Johnson.

Thursday, January 25

Quilters, 2:00 p.m.
The Quilters meet at 2:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

This week, the choir meets in the sanctuary on
Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to rehearse music for
Sundays and learn anthems and special music.

Saturday, January 27

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

Announcements

Sunday Worship

We always need worship assistants. 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 programs,
email Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

Altar Flowers

To request flowers for our worship:
<https://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2023>. 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, let us know; we'll
deliver the arrangement to another member to enjoy. If
you ordered flowers, please remember to pay for them
- online or in the offering, marked for "Flowers."

Financial Statements

Thank you, Mount Cross congregation, for all the
generosity you show your church family!
Please email any questions about giving and/or
statements to Financial Secretary Joan Brundage
at jbrundage@mountcross.com.

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**
(tuna or chicken) are always a good choice.
They could also use **cereal, oatmeal, pasta sauce,**
pasta, canned soup, mac & cheese, fresh bread,
toilet paper, paper towels, and Kleenex. Please
do not donate food that is expired.
Thanks for your support.

Vitalant Blood Drive - Give Blood

TODAY, January 21, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, the Vitalant Bloodmobile is in the Mount Cross
parking lot. Please sign up to give blood: <https://bit.ly/Jan21BloodDriveSignups>
or check to see if they have openings.

Budget Information Meeting

The Mount Cross Treasurer, Rick Gardner, invites all who are interested in going over the 2024
budget in detail to meet with him **TODAY, January 21, at 11:00 a.m.** in the Parish Life Center.

Annual Meeting - Plan to Be There

Our All Church **Potluck and Annual Meeting** is **next Sunday, January 28,**
at 11:45 a.m., following 9:30 a.m. Worship and **10:45 a.m. Potluck** (11:45 a.m. Annual Meeting).

For the potluck, bring a dish to share or just come!

Salad: Last names beginning with A through E
Main Dish: Last names beginning with F through L
Dessert: Last names beginning with M through Y

Wear Bright Colors to Church on Sunday, January 28!
ReconcilingWorks Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary This Year.

ReconcilingWorks is the independent organization for Lutherans advocating for the Full Participation of LGBTQIA+ people. It is a radical endeavor to name each person as a 'Child of God' - no matter what - NO exceptions! ReconcilingWorks (RW) oversees the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) process, which Mount Cross went through in 2023. This year, RW celebrates its 50th Anniversary. An annual RIC Sunday worship is celebrated on the last Sunday of January or another meaningful date decided by each individual congregation.

Mount Cross voted to become an RIC congregation last November and we just received word that our application was approved by ReconcilingWorks! Our Mount Cross RIC Team would like you to join us in celebrating this 50th year of RW by asking you to wear bright colors to church on January 28, which is also the day of our Annual Congregational Meeting. This year's RW RIC Sunday theme is **"Roll Down Justice,"** which is inspired from Amos 5:24.

Let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream.

Mount Cross Leadership Retreat
Saturday, February 3, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

ALL members of the Mount Cross community are invited to our annual **Leadership Retreat** Saturday, February 3, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. We will meet in our sanctuary. Childcare and lunch will be provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of visioning and planning for 2024 at Mount Cross. RSVP to office@mountcross.com so we can plan to have enough food. Note: 2024 Church Council members will hold their February meeting at 8:00 a.m. that day.

Help Feed People in Need

The second Monday of every month, Mount Cross joins with Camarillo United Methodist Church to cook for Many Meals, the dinner served at St. Mary Magdalen Church to people in need. The recipes are provided. All you need to do is sign up, cook, and drop off the food at 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary's. If you can help, please let Karin Grennan know. Her email address is grennan4@verizon.net.

Love without Limits - All Church Reads
Wednesday Small Group Book Study

All Mount Cross members are encouraged to read *Love without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions* as we start this new year. We will **discuss the book as a congregation on Sunday, February 18, at 11:00 a.m.** Read it on your own or gather a small group to read it together.

Allison Johnson hosts a study group on **Wednesdays through February 7, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.**, in the Parish Life Center to discuss the book *Love without Limits*. All (over age 13) are invited to join us. We will be discussing the book with questions from the author. Please consider coming if you can commit to 5 weeks and can read 2 chapters each week before attending. We ask that you be prompt so that we can start a great discussion. Looking forward to seeing you there. Books available for \$18 from Amazon. Questions, contact Allison Johnson, ad.johnson@dslextrême.com.

Wednesday Programs for All Ages

Rooted / 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.
Fun With Faith / 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.
Community Dinner / 5:45 - 6:30 p.m.
Adult Book Study / 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Confirmation / 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join the Mount Cross community on Wednesday evenings. For more information, check our website: www.mountcross.com or talk to Joe Zimmerly or Pastor Julie Morris.

January Service Project - Diapers for Graceful Diapers Ministry

We are collecting diapers for the Graceful Diapers Ministry in Oxnard for the month of January. If you haven't had to purchase diapers in a bit, you might not remember how very expensive they can be. Graceful Diapers Pantry is trying to take the burden off of some of our neighbor families by providing a box or two of diapers. You can buy diapers (sizes 6 and 7 are especially needed) or baby wipes, and place them in the Pack-N-Play in the narthex, or place cash or a check in the box and let someone else pick them up.

ELCA National Youth Gathering - July 15-20, 2024

Every three years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America hosts the National Youth Gathering in various cities around the country for over 30,000 high-school-aged youth. In each city, youth and their adult chaperones will serve and worship together. In fact, young Lutherans have been gathering for more than 100 years! The Lutheran denominations that made up the ELCA each had rich traditions of bringing their young people together. The Gathering's goal is to create environments and opportunities for faith formation through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service, and fellowship. While some of the experiences can be replicated at home, some are unique and special to the Gathering because of the size and scope of this ministry. I mean, just think 30,000 Lutherans in the same room. Now, that is something I can confidently say only happens at this event. As we worship in the Superdome (home of the New Orleans Saints), walk through Jackson Square, listen to the community, pray for one another, I encourage you to follow our journey and I also invite you to find ways to support our youth from Mount Cross. Whether that be financially, or by prayer, we want the entire Mount Cross community to remember that we are all on this journey together. —Joe Zimmerly

2024 Church Directory

We need to update our church directory again. If you have any changes or additions to make to your directory entry, please contact the office (office@mountcross.com).

Giving to Mount Cross!

If you would like to give to Mount Cross, in addition to adding your offering to the collection plate on Sundays, you can do so via our online giving page, through mail (102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010), or via our Venmo account (@MountCross-LutheranChurch, or scan the QR code below) 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 be sure to indicate what your payment / donation is designated for. Thank you!

