

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 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday
January 28, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**



PRELUDE - "I Come to You, O God" (Willett/Browning)

Mount Cross Choir; Elliott Ripley, piano; Justin Thai, flute

Be still. Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God. Be still.

Refrain

In the secret places of the spirit, I come to you, O God.
In the silent spaces of the morning, I come to you, O god.
Giver of joy beyond imagination,
beat of my heart's beat, ever shining vision,
I come to you, I come to you, O God.

Verse 1

God in firmness when all around me is changing,
God in strength when I'm weary and in need.
I come to you, God, in innocence and trusting,
in simple hope of following your lead.

Refrain

Verse 2

God in stillness, ever resting in your shadow,
God in glory, everlasting as the light.
I come to you, God, in solitude and silence,
in simple hope of keeping you in sight.

Refrain

Verse 3

God in friendship, by my side in sigh and sorrow,
God in glory, in contentment and in praise.
I come to you, God, in answer to your calling,
in simple hope of sleeping in your grace.

Refrain

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

GATHERING SONG - "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" - ELW 611

As able, the assembly stands.



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



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

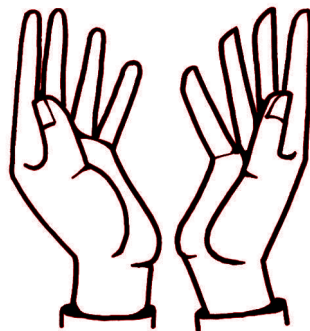


I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



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

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



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.**

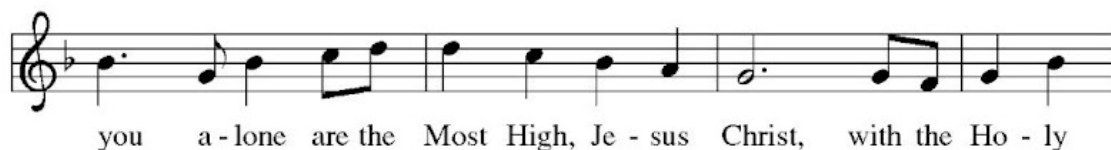
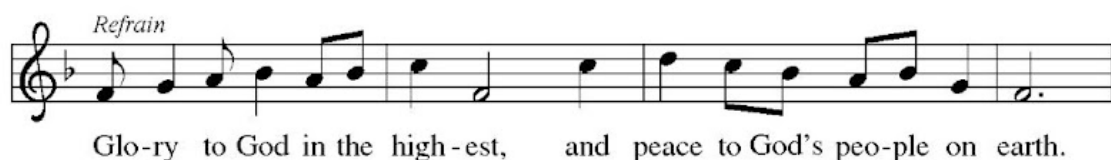
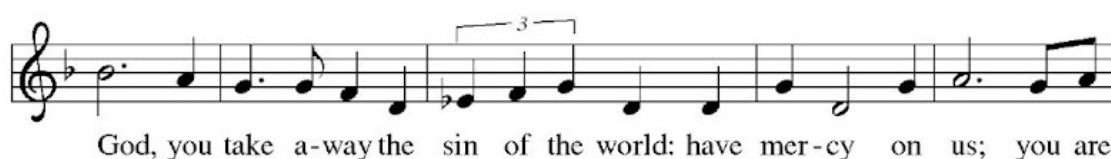
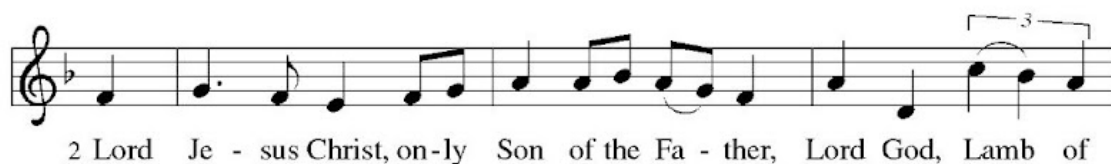
CANTICLE OF PRAISE - "Glory to God" (ELW Setting 2)



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, 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 musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends; God's love is strong and it nev - er ends." The score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano part uses chords and simple melodic lines to support the vocal melody.

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: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 150 - "Praise Ye the Lord" - ELW 872

Please join the choir in singing the psalm. (Verses 1 & 4, all; Verse 2, men; Verse 3, women)

Refrain

Praise ye the Lord, hal - le - lu - jah!

Ev - 'ry - bod - y, praise the Lord.

1 Praise God with the sound of the trum - pet;
 2 Praise God with ho - ly cym - bals;
 3 Praise God in the ho - ly tem - ple;
 4 Praise God on top of the moun - tains;

praise God with the lute and the harp;
 praise God with strings and with pipes;
 praise God for al - might - y deeds;
 praise God both day and night;

praise God with the tim - brel and danc - ing;
 praise God with clash - ing cym - bals;
 praise God for those boun - ti - ful mer - cies;
 praise God down in the low val - leys;

Refrain

praise God wher - ev - er you are.
 praise God with all of your might.
 for God ful - fills our needs.
 praise God be - cause it's all right.

Text: J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986, based on Psalm 150
 Music: CLEVELAND, J. Jefferson Cleveland
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SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

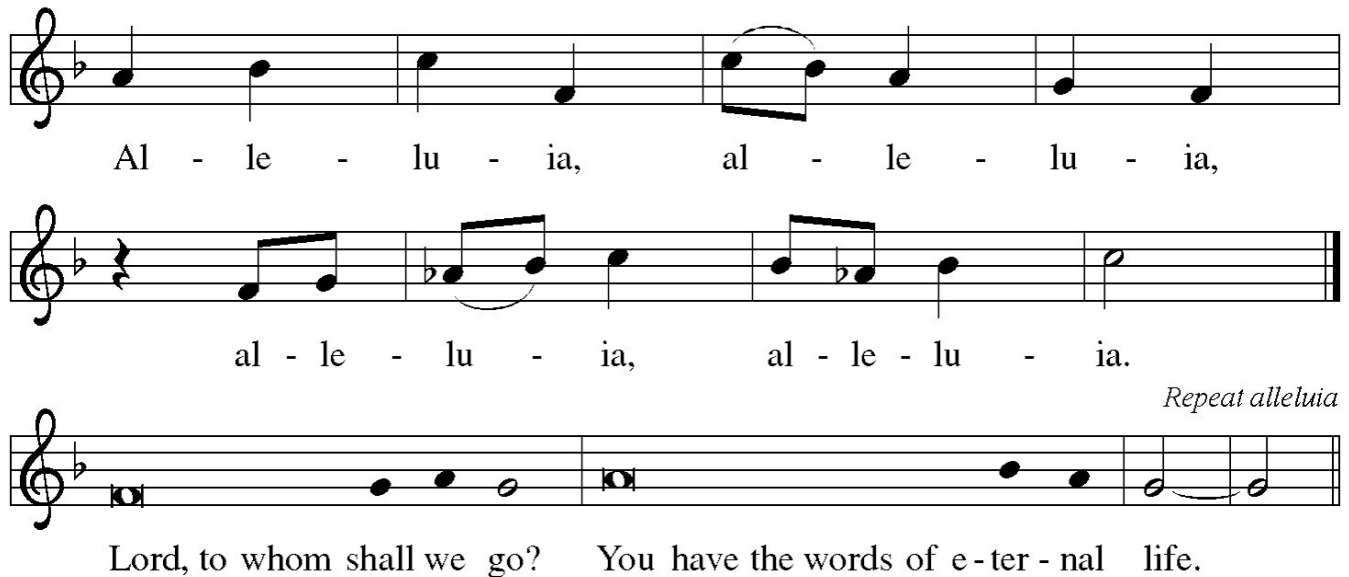
L Word of God, word of life.

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 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

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

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

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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 - "Cast Out, O Christ" - ACS 1016

1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you
4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that
5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the

de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you
break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,
de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to

choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.
home in peace to live your gos - pel call.
sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003

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Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org. All rights reserved.

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.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. Bless our Annual Meeting today and guide our congregation to be a prophetic and Christ-centered church, listening to your Holy Spirit's leadership. God of light, **hear our prayer.**

Inclusive God, we celebrate becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation and pray that we may live out our call towards radical love, reconciliation, hospitality, and unity. May Mount Cross be a community where no one is excluded or discriminated against, where welcome is our rule, and where justice is our practice. God of light, **hear our prayer.**

A Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. Teach 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.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, 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, LuAnn Hayden** (sister of Bill Dawson), **Patrick Heckman** (relative of Marni Engh), **Gordon Henry, Rebecca Henry, 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), **Phil Schaefer** (brother 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 - "Healer of Our Every Ill" - ELW 612

Refrain



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



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



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

Refrain



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

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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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.**

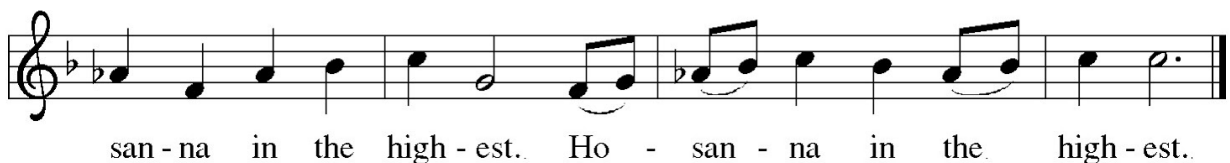
P Lift up your hearts.

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.
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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **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)

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 - "Psalm 19" (Butler) - CCLI Song # 1773823

§

May the words of my mouth and the med - i -

ta - tions of my heart be pleas - ing to you,

pleas - ing to you. May the words of my mouth

and the med - i - ta - tions of my heart be

pleas - ing to you, my God. *Fine*

You're my Rock and my Re - deem - er, you're the

reas - on that I sing. I de - sire to be a bless -

- ing in your eyes. Ev' - ry ho - ur, ev' - ry mo -

- ment, Lord, I want to be your ser - vant. I de -

sire to be a bless - ing in your eyes,

D.S. al Fine

in your eyes. May the

Words and music: Terry Butler. © 1995, Mercy / Vineyard Publishing.

“Yet Not I but through Christ in Me” (Robinson/ Thompson/Farren) - CCLI Song # 7121852



1. What gift of grace is Je - sus, my Re - deem - er. There is no
 (2. The night is) dark, but I am not for - sak - en, for by my
 (3. No fate I) dread, I know I am for - giv - en, the fu - ture
 (4. With ev - 'ry) breath I long to fol - low Je - sus, for he has



more for heav - en now to give. He is my joy, my right - eous - ness and
 side the Sav - ior, he will stay. I la - bor on in weak - ness and re -
 sure, the price, it has been paid. For Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my
 said that he will bring me home. And day by day I know he will re -



free - dom, my stead - fast love, my deep and bound - less peace. — To this I
 joic - ing, for in my need, his pow - er is dis - played. To this I
 par - don, and he was raised to o - ver - throw the grave. — To this I
 new me un - til I stand with joy be - fore the throne. To this I



hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus. For my life is whol - ly bound to
 hold: my Shep - herd will de - fend me. Through the deep - est val - ley he will
 hold: my sin has been de - feat - ed. Je - sus now, and ev - er, is my
 hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus. All the glo - ry ev - er - more to



his. — Oh how strange and di - vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not
 lead. — Oh the night has been won, and I shall ov - er - come! Yet not
 plea. — Oh the chains are re - leased, I can sing: I am free! Yet not
 him. — When the race is com - plete, still my lips shall re - peat: Yet not

Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren. CCLI Song #7121852.
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SENDING SONG - "Beautiful Savior" - ELW 838

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright in the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

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 Becky Riley
in memory of Valerie Simpson.**

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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 28

Potluck and Annual Meeting

Please enjoy our church potluck at 10:45 a.m. and
return to the sanctuary for our Annual Meeting
at 11:45 a.m.

Monday, January 29

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 30

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.

Fellowship Committee, 7:00 p.m.

The Fellowship Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31

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.

This 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.

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: \$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.

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

The choir meets in the sanctuary to rehearse music for Sundays and learn anthems and special music.

Thursday, February 1

Men's Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.

The Men's Bible Study meets at Marie Callender's (185 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo). A \$15 donation covers breakfast and a tip, No RSVP necessary. Contact Randy Churchill (hrchurchill@verizon.net) with any questions.

Executive Committee Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

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

Property Committee, 7:00 p.m.

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

Friday, February 2

Senior Adult Ministry, 2:00 p.m.

The Senior Adult Ministry Committee meets at 2:00 p.m.

Parents' Night Out, 6:00 p.m.

See the announcement below about Parents' Night Out. Questions, contact Joe Zimmerly.

Saturday, February 3

Council Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

The Council meets at 8:00 a.m.

Leadership Retreat, 9:00 a.m.

The Leadership Retreat is from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, followed by lunch. See details below.

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.

Annual Meeting - TODAY!

Our All Church **Potluck and Annual Meeting** is **TODAY, 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

Bright Colors TODAY!

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 today, 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.

One of our RIC commitments is to make an annual contribution to RW. If you would like to support RIC/ReconcilingWorks, a \$25 contribution or other amount designated to RIC/RW is appreciated. There will also be RIC/RW donation envelopes in the narthex.

Mount Cross Leadership Retreat

This 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.

Parents' Night Out - February 2

We are hosting another Parents' Night Out on February 2 from 6:00-10:00 p.m.! Children ages 3 - 10 (who are potty trained) are welcome to join us for a fun night at the church. We will be making pizza, playing games, and watching a movie. There is a suggested donation of \$25 per child for the night. All the proceeds go towards our high school summer trip to New Orleans.

For counting purposes, please sign up using this link: <https://signup.com/go/oEqLgBZ>

If you have any questions, please contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

Family Serving / Play Date Sunday - February 4

Join us next Sunday, February 4, for the first Family Serving & Play Date of the year! All are welcome to join. We will need acolytes, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, etc. If you are interested in serving, please email Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

Afterwards, we invite you to stay around for our Play Date Sunday at the church. Families will gather at the playground following worship for community time. We hope you can make it!

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. You might not know or remember how very expensive diapers can be. Graceful Diapers Pantry is trying to take the burden off of some of our neighbors by providing a box or two of diapers. You can buy diapers (sizes 6 & 7 especially needed) or baby wipes, 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.

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).

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

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!

