

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 www.mountcross.com



**2nd Sunday of Christmas
January 3, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

GATHERING SONG - "Angels from the Realms of Glory" - ELW 275, Verses 1, 3 & 4

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory". It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system contains the first four verses of the hymn. The second system contains the continuation of the verses. The third system is labeled "Refrain" and contains the refrain text. The fourth system contains the continuation of the refrain. The music is in a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.

C **Amen.**

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

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Vicar Amanda Berg

CHILDREN'S SONG - "He Came Down" - ELW 253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

FIRST READING: Sirach 24:1-12 (Video reading by Mateo Carpenter)

The figure of Wisdom played a major role in early discussions of Christology. Wisdom is the divine word, coming from the mouth of God, and ruling over all of creation. Wisdom, created at the beginning of time, made her dwelling place in Jerusalem among God's people.

¹Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. ²In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: ³"I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. ⁴I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. ⁵Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. ⁶Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. ⁷Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide?

⁸“Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, ‘Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.’ ⁹Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. ¹⁰In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. ¹¹Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. ¹²I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.”

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

SONG OF RESPONSE - “Heaven Is Singing for Joy” - ELW 664 (sing in English)



El cie - lo can - ta_a - le - grí - a, ¡a - le - lu - ya!
 1 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
 2 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
 3 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,



por - que en tu vi - da y la mí - a bri - lla la glo - ria de Dios.
 for in your life and mine is shin - ing the glo - ry of God.
 for your life and mine u - nite in the love of our God.
 for your life and mine will al - ways bear wit - ness to God.

Refrain / Estribillo



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

2 *El cielo canta alegría, ¡aleluya!*
porque a tu vida y la mía
las une el amor de Dios. Estribillo

3 *El cielo canta alegría, ¡aleluya!*
porque tu vida y la mía
proclamarán al Señor. Estribillo

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "Christmastime Alleluia" (Chepponis)

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a repeat sign at the beginning. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and a repeat sign at the end. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes, with a long horizontal line following the final 'ia!'.

Music: Based on ADESTE FIDELIS, James J. Chepponis.

© 1997, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

GOSPEL: John 1:10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

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

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

¹⁰[Jesus] was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 - "Love Has Come" - ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of calendar and clock, Lord of precious moments and painful memories, we gather as your family to worship you at the break of a new year, a year full of possibility and wonder. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Help us to live always to praise your name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us reverence for the happenings of this last year past - the joys, the tragedies, and challenges and the pain. Remind us of your presence through it all, standing with us each moment on mountains' brilliant crest, and valleys' darkest deep. Show us new ways to love your creation and others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, in recounting this past year- we grieve our shortcomings. We need your help to lay down the leftovers of last year. We need direction for finding a way to face the future. Expand the imagination of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of nations and communities. Protect all in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You bring consolation to those who weep, embrace those who feel far off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic pain in invisible illness. Sustain the weak and tired. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness. We especially pray for those on our prayer list (*names from bulletin list*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and light. Bring justice to all who are oppressed. Prompt us to greet each day with expectation and each night with peace. Grant us your blessing, Lord. May we honor you as we live in the time you have given each of us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING SONG - "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (St. Louis; arr. Callahan)

Mount Cross Bell Choir (Carol Browning, Guy Ervin III, Bill Greason, Melissa Henry, Barbara Recker, Melissa Sobolik, Aimee Stoll, Justin Thai)



As able, the assembly stands for the Great Thanksgiving.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

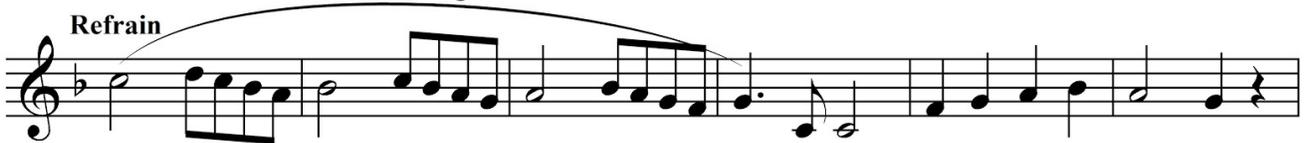
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:



1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord, God of Hosts, all praise be giv'n!
2. Bless-ed is the King who came, bring-ing love and light di-vine!



All your glo - ry fills the earth, all your pow - er fills the heav'ns!
Bless - ed is the King who comes in the bread and in the wine!



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

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

Music: *Gloria* (77.77 with Refrain), French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

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

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

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup, Gracious God,
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection,
and we look with hope for his coming again.

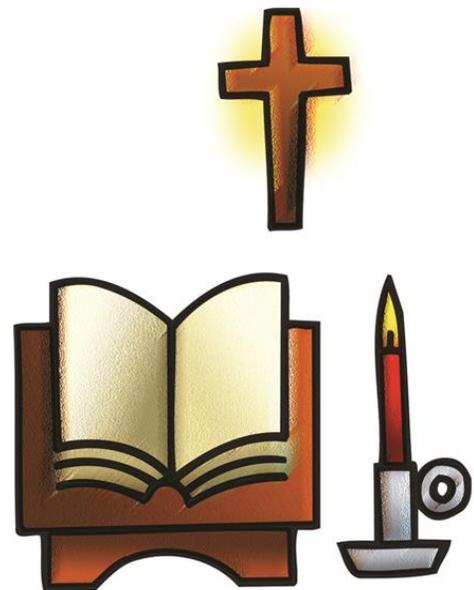
Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and
his Blood of the new Covenant.
Gather into one all who desire to share this bread and wine:
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people, fill us with your light,
and bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, 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 AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Christ is here.
The assembly may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

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).

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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."

The Assisting Minister invites those joining from home to say the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, as Mary and Joseph received you into their arms, I receive you into my heart. Trusting in your words, "This is my body—given for you; this is my blood—shed for you," I thank you for forgiveness and salvation. May your love and grace grow within me and all who celebrate your birth. Inspire us to praise you and strengthen us to serve you until we can gather around your table again. Amen.¹



¹ Written by Pastor Julie for Mount Cross, Christmas Eve 2020.

COMMUNION SONG - "What Child Is This?" - ELW 296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this Communion we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

*The flowers at the altar are
to celebrate the birthday of Evelyn Lacy,
given by her Mount Cross friends;
and in thanksgiving to God for their parents,
given by Pastor Julie Morris and Paul DeBusschere.*

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,
License #A-722573 and CCLI License #2022482. Images from
sundaysandseasons.com used with permission from Augsburg Fortress.*

Join us for **Community Conversation Time on Zoom** following this service! Grab a cup of coffee or tea and some treats and visit with us. Here is the **Zoom link**:

<http://bit.ly/CommunityConversationTime>.

Or to join by phone, call **1 669 900 6833**. You will be asked for the **meeting ID (889 0267 0619)** and **passcode (302996)**.

Let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card:

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

Come to the Table: Mount Cross is offering **Drive-Through Communion** today from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We ask that you please consider your vulnerabilities and risk factors before choosing to participate in drive-through Communion.

PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

We pray for an end to the coronavirus, for doctors, nurses, and caretakers, for researchers, all involved in the vaccine efforts, and for the families grieving the loss of each victim.

We pray also for Elizabeth A, Robert and Robin A (friends of Becky & Ken Riley), **Roger Allmandinger** (brother-in-law of Jim & Susan Prosser), **Sharon Benner** (sister of Karen Gramacki), **Cynthia Bishop** (friend of Bob and Judy Winters), **Mike Carpenter, Chip** (friend of Wendy & Mike McClary), **Terry Cline** (relative of Jim & Karen Gramacki), **Rob Conant** (boyfriend of Mary Goodenough's daughter), **Stephanie Copenhaver** (friend of Kathleen Jones) **Howard Corey, Travis and Jacquanna Davis, Bob Edell, Steve Engh** (friend of Gayle & Cy Johnson), **Michelle G** (friend of Carina McVeigh's mother), **Sharon Goodenough** (daughter of Mary Goodenough), **Ron Higginbotham, Charles Hilley, Norm Morgan, Karen Nelson, the family of Maria Perales and of Julie Reynoso** (friends of Pastor Julie's family), **Lisa Saner, the family of Jerry Schumann** (Janet Kessler's daughter-in-law's father), **Patricia Springer** (mother of Joan Brundage), **Patrick Tovar** (uncle of Christina Tovar-Hamernik), **Mike Turek** (friend of the Henrys), **Bill Voigt** (father of Heather Edwards), **Lisa and Kurt Wyrick** (friend of Becky & Ken Riley).

*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.*



Photo by Sincerely Media on Unsplash

The Week at a Glance

Most of our regular programs are still on break this week.

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Fair Trade Sale

After worship, purchase Fair Trade foods during Drive-through Communion.

Monday, January 4, 2021

Monday Meditation, 3:00 p.m.

The Monday Meditation group meets at 3:00 p.m. To join by computer or smart phone/tablet go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83666658855> or to call on your phone, dial 1 (669) 900-6833. You will be asked to enter the Meeting ID which is 836 6665 8855 and then push pound (#).

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Upper Room Zoom, 12:00 noon

Upper Room Zoom meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It's a nice 15-minute break in your day that includes scripture, prayer, and relaxing video/audio. Join us as often as you'd like.

Join: <http://bit.ly/MCUpperRoomZoom>

OR, you can call in on a phone. Dial 1 (408) 638 0968. Meeting ID: 847 4745 9576, then push pound (#).

Peace & Justice Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

The Mount Cross Peace & Justice Team works to help Mount Cross live into our anti-racism commitment. All are welcome and encouraged to join us in this journey to justice. Email Bill Stoll (william.stoll@verizon.net) with any questions. The Zoom link for the meeting is: <http://bit.ly/MCPeaceandJustice>. The meeting ID is 871 0569 3251 and the passcode is 141223.

Thursday, January 7, 2021

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

Men's Bible Study meets every other Thursday from 7:30-9:00 a.m. via Zoom::

<http://bit.ly/MCMensBibleStudy>

OR you can call in by phone, 1 (408) 638 0968 Meeting ID: 891 5038 5706, Passcode: 521872.

Upper Room Zoom, 12:00 noon

Upper Room Zoom meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It's a nice 15-minute break in your day that includes scripture, prayer, and relaxing video/audio. Join us as often as you'd like.

Join: <http://bit.ly/MCUpperRoomZoom>

OR, you can call in on a phone. Dial 1 (408) 638 0968. You will be asked for a Meeting ID. It is 847 4745 9576, then push pound (#).

Executive Committee Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

The Executive Committee meets via Zoom.

Looking Ahead:

Family Bingo Night on Zoom January 17, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for Family Bingo Night January 17, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. All you will need for this event is a device for Zoom. Joe will email more instructions of how this will work as the date approaches.

Make sure to sign up using this link:

<https://signup.com/go/zjcMtkb>

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 31, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Announcements

Sunday Worship

The Re-Opening Committee has approved outdoor worship. Email office@mountcross.com or call 805-482-3847 if you are interested in attending the service in person. When arriving for Sunday morning worship, please park in designated areas or on the street; sign in and have your temperature taken; wear a mask; practice social distancing; bring a chair (some chairs available). Thank you in advance for helping to make this a safe worship experience!

Help with Sunday Worship and Communion

We are looking for help to make Sunday worship and drive-through Communion possible. If you would like to help set up or as a parking lot usher, greeter, or communion assistant, please sign up at <http://bit.ly/WorshipandCommunionAssistants> or call the office at (805) 482-3847.

If you'd like to serve as a lector, intercessor, or musician on a Sunday, either by joining us on-site for the live stream or by recording in advance, please contact the office

Altar Flowers

We've resumed having altar flowers, when requested, for our outdoor worship. We've added an Altar Flower SignUp Request: <http://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2021>. The cost remains \$35.00 and you are welcome to take the arrangement home with you after worship, if attending in person, or pick it up at Drive-through Communion. If you are not present but would still like flowers for a special occasion, please let us know and we can deliver the arrangement to a homebound member to enjoy.

Celebrating 20 Years of Full Communion Partnership

It has been 20 years since the ELCA and the Episcopal Church entered into a full communion agreement called, "Called to Common Mission." At 9:30 a.m. on January 17, the eve of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Mount Cross Lutheran and St. Columba's Episcopal will combine their Sunday worship services at Mount Cross in celebration of this wonderful partnership.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

To find out about our programs, email Joe (joe@mountcross.com) for other details or questions.

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. See the article in the January newsletter for details. Thank you!

Word in Season

The daily devotional from Augsburg Fortress, *Word in Season*, has been delayed because of all the shipping challenges this holiday season. For January-March only, because of the delay, Augsburg has allowed customers to sign up for these daily devotions by email: <https://go.augsburgfortress.org/temporary-word-in-season-emails>. We will be getting printed booklets, hopefully sometime next week.

Introduction to the Gospel of Mark - 3-Week Bible Study Series

Wednesday Evenings on Zoom, 5:00-6:00 p.m. -

<http://bit.ly/MCWednesdayNights>

Led by Vicar Amanda

Come and join in the learning and conversation as we explore the Gospel of Mark. Thought to be the oldest of the four gospels, this action-packed and fast-moving narrative provides insights to both the human and divine aspects of Jesus. Come and see how this shortest gospel, which can be read in about 2 hours, provides us with deep insights into our understanding of Christ and our call as disciples.

Week One (January 13): *Jesus and His Public Ministry (Chapters 1-8:21)*

In week one, we will travel back in time to learn about the historical context in which the gospel was written. We will gain insights about the author, Jesus' identity, and his public ministry.

Week Two (January 20): *Jesus and the Journey on the Way (Chapters 8:22-10)*

In week two, we will look at the middle of the gospel, between the healing of two blind men: the man at Bethsaida and Bartimaeus. Here we will gain insights about Christ's journey toward his passion, death, and resurrection. This "journey on the way" with his disciples turns our attention to why Jesus has come.

Week Three (January 27): *Jesus and His Passion, Death, & Resurrection (Chapter 11-16)*

In week three, we will explore key stories leading up to the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. We will engage with the unfolding of these events and the key people and themes present. Finally, we will discuss the "two endings" of the gospel, and how Mark invites us to play a role in this ongoing story.