

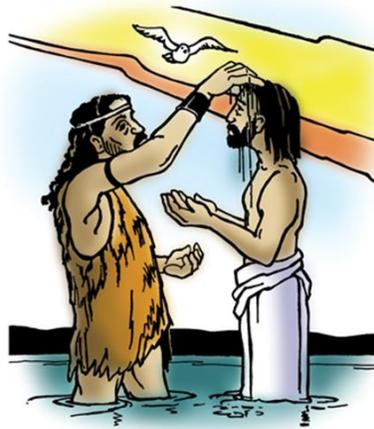
# Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 [www.mountcross.com](http://www.mountcross.com)

*For those of you worshipping with us in person,  
thank you for wearing your mask (indoors required; outdoors optional)  
and social distancing outdoors when singing.*

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



## **To the Parents of Our Young Children -**

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

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

## **To All Worshippers -**

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

***Thank you for being the welcoming Body of Christ!***

**Baptism of Our Lord  
January 9, 2022, 9:30 a.m.**

# PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

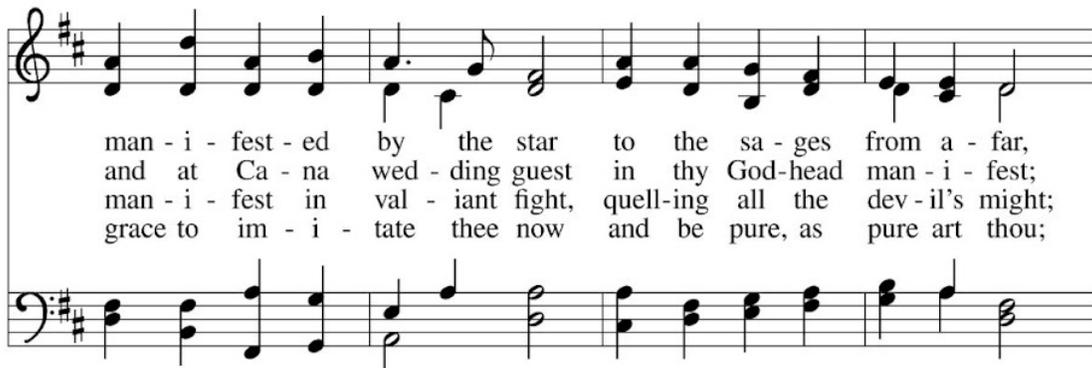
## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

### GATHERING SONG - "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" - ELW 310 - Verses 1, 2 & 4

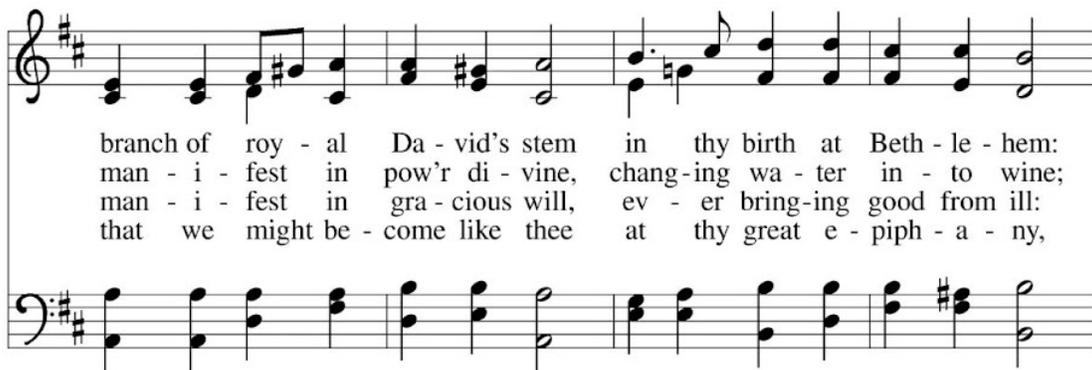
As able, the assembly stands.



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;  
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

C **Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
(Water may be poured into the font.)

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

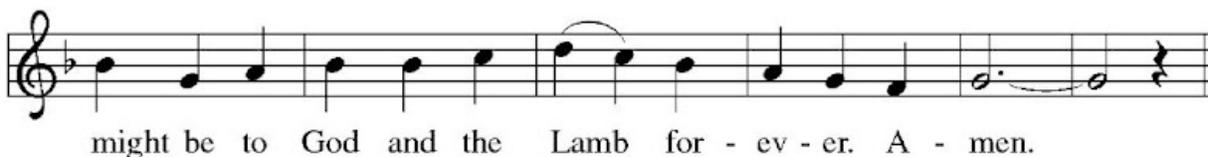
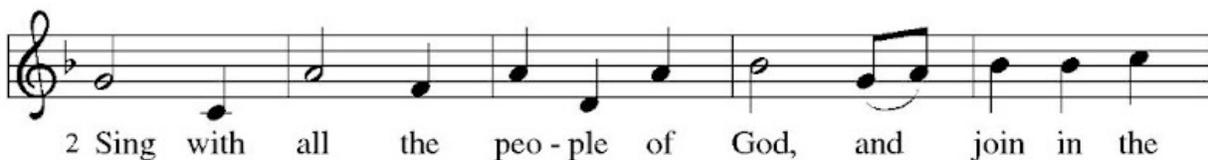
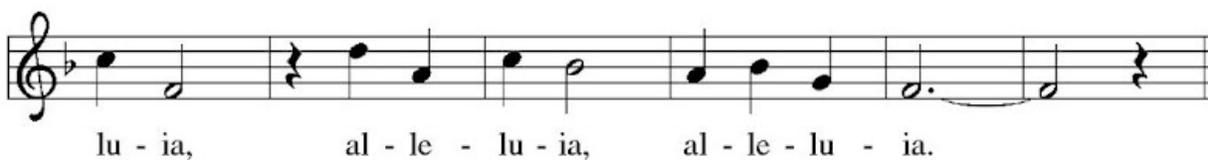
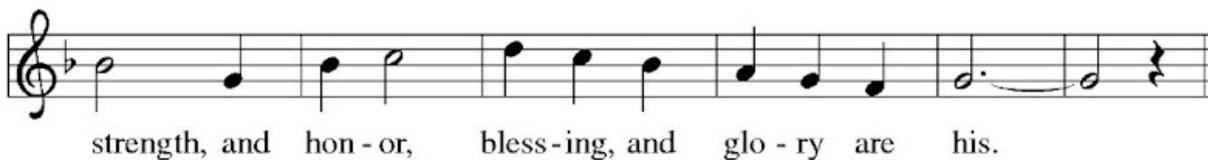
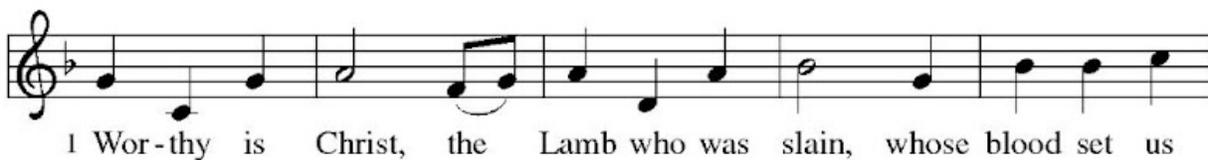
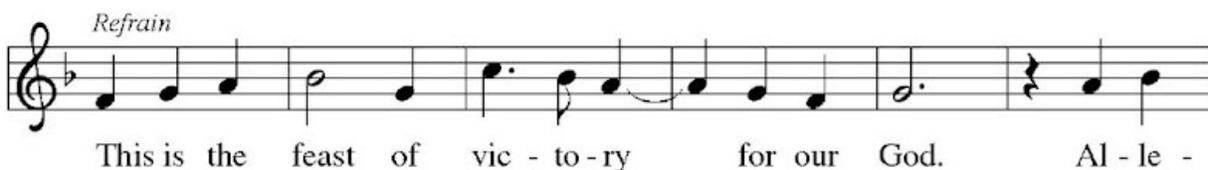
C **Amen.**



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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE - "This Is the Feast" - ELW Setting 2



*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Joe Zimmerly

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup>For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

**L** Word of God, word of life.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 29 - "All on Earth and All in Heaven" (Morgan/EBENEZER)



1. All on earth and all in heav - en raise to <sup>3</sup> God a  
2. Trees shall bow in awe and won - der, bend their branch - es



song on high; strength un - mea - sured, love un - bound-ed,  
to the ground; from God's lips one word in an - ger



God a <sup>3</sup> - lone we glo - ri - fy. At God's voice the clouds as -  
wreaks de - struc-tion all a-round. But the Word which sets in



sem-ble, thun - der roars, and tor - rents fall; earth shall quake be -  
mo - tion such tra - vails can make them cease; that same voice which



fore God's pres - ence, moun - tains trem - ble at God's call.  
tu - mult beck - ons in a gen - tler breath speaks peace.

Words: Paraphrase of Psalm 29; Michael Morgan, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources.

Music: EBENEZER (87. 87. D), Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944, 1890, P.D.

### SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

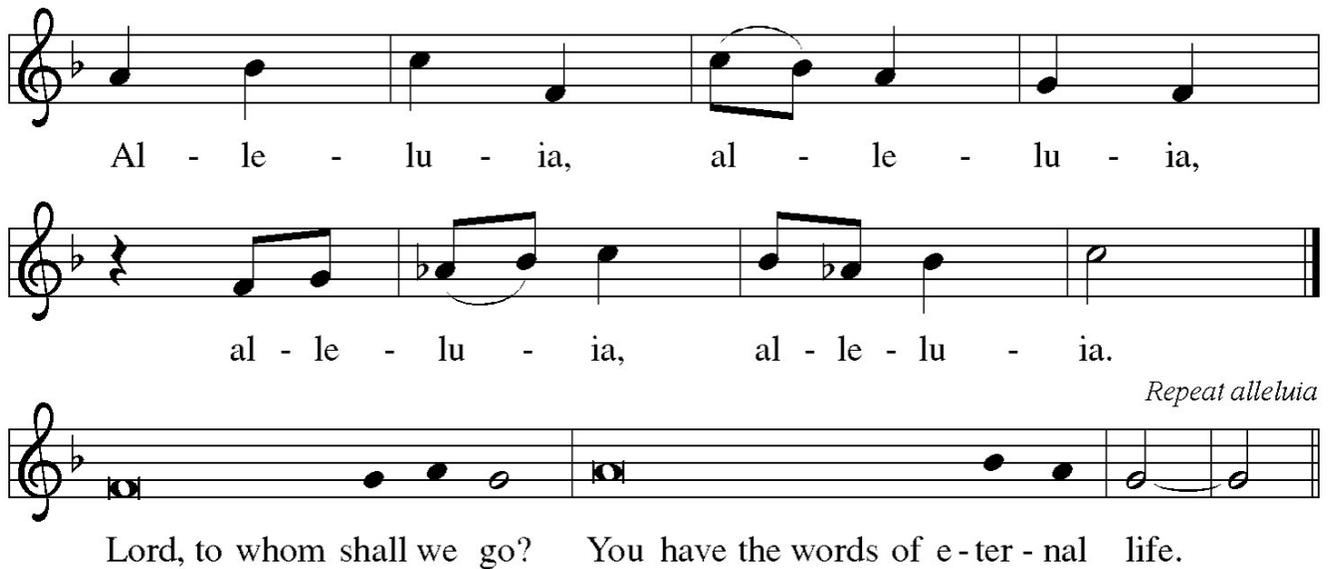
<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – “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: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

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

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

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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 - "Down Galilee's Slow Roadways" - ACS 916



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on  
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;  
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.  
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.  
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,  
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:  
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.  
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."  
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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## 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



*The assembly may be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. Bring aid to all who are affected by the Colorado wildfire. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice, especially our Peace & Justice ministers. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism, holy communion, or church membership. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

- A You protect us through the troubles of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need, especially those on our prayer list ...

### PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

**We pray for Bob Anderson, Tom Andino** (friend of Carol Browning), **Alice** (friend of Barbara Burke), **Jenny** (daughter of friend of Barbara Burke), **Linda** (friend of Barbara Burke), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Lorraine & Mike Carpenter, David Diehl** (son of Karen & Joe Diehl), **Steve Doshier** (brother-in-law of Paul Crockett), **Paul Edwards and Nancy Edwards** (friends of Denise Sobolik), **Tim, Steph & Aurelia Euken** (niece and nephew of Mona & Tom Neuhas), **Natalie Faltin, Bill Greason, Charlene** (sister of Glenda Greason), **the family of Betty Hahn** (aunt of Joan Brundage), **Charles Hilley, Jo Holler, Nancy Jaeger, Paul Marigonda** (friend of Becky Riley), **Rick Mahlke** (son of friend of Barbara Burke), **Lucille Miley, David Nadon** (friend of Miriam Hoffmann), **Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson** (mother of Julie Fernandez), **Michael and Mercedes Olivera** (brother of Courtney Burke), **Rev. Stacy and Rev. Todd Payne and their family** (friends of Wendy & Mike McClary), **the family of Bonnie Smith** (sister of Karen Cherry), **the family of Donald Stevenson** (father of Luanne Crockett, Louise Stevenson, and Bruce Stevenson), **Chris, Wayne & Maria Truchan** (friends of the Burke family), **Virginia** (friend of Joan Brundage's mother, Patricia), **the family of Lois Watts, Howard Wullschleger.**

*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](mailto:office@mountcross.com) or call 805.482.3847.*

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

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

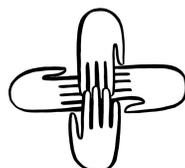
Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

- C **Amen.**

### PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.

- C **And also with you.**



**OFFERING SONG - "The River" (Wedgewood/Feliz/Silverberg) - CCLI Song  
#7047433**

*Verse 1*

I know a place where we can go,  
to lay the troubles down eating your soul.  
I know a place where mercy flows,  
take the stains, make you cleaner than snow.

*Pre-Chorus*

Like a tide, it is rising up deep inside.  
A current that moves and makes you come alive.  
Living water that brings the dead to life. Oh, oh.

*Chorus*

We're goin' down to the river, down to the river,  
down to the river to pray.  
Let's get washed by the water, washed by the water,  
and rise up in amazing grace.  
Let's go down, down, down to the river.  
You will leave changed.  
Let's go down, down, down to the river.  
Never the same.

*Verse 2*

I've seen it move in my own life,  
took me from dusty roads into Paradise.  
All of my dirt, all of my shame,  
drowned in the streams that have made me born again.

*Pre-Chorus*

*Chorus*

*Bridge*

Let's go down, oo, oo, oo.  
Let's go down, oo, oo, oo.  
Let's go down.

*Pre-Chorus*

*Chorus*

*Ending*

Oh, down, oo, oo.  
Gotta go, gotta go, gotta go down in amazing grace.  
Let's go down, down, down to the river.  
We're going down to the river.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe.  
You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey.  
Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food,  
and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world,  
in the name of Christ our light.

C **Amen.**

*As able, the assembly stands for the Great Thanksgiving.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for 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 all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy God,  
the universe declares your praise  
and generations bless your faithfulness.  
We give you thanks for your dear Son,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
he 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.

P Remembering his love for us  
on the way,  
at the table,  
and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts.  
Let them be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup  
may be filled with your life and goodness.

All blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,  
in your church, without end.

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 Come to God's table.  
There is a place for you and enough for all.

*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. Place your empty cup in the trays provided. Communion ministers will bring Holy Communion to those with mobility challenges (or those worshiping 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.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Adapted by Pastor Julie from a prayer written by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

**COMMUNION SONGS - "In Christ Alone" (Getty/Townend) - CCLI Song  
#3350395**

*Verse 1*

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

*Verse 2*

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The love of God was crucified  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

*Verse 3*

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

*Verse 4*

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

# “Spirit of Gentleness” - ELW 396

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A We give you thanks, gracious God,  
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.  
Send us to bring good news  
and to proclaim your favor to all,  
strengthened with the richness of your grace  
in your Son, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

*As able, the assembly stands for the Blessing.*

## BLESSING

P The blessing of God our Creator,  
✠ Christ our Redeemer,  
and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer,  
be with you now and always.

C **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG - "Rain Down" (Cortez)

The musical score is written in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of five systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system is the Refrain, followed by two systems of the Refrain with first and second endings. The next two systems are the Verses, and the final system is a bridge leading back to the Refrain.

**Refrain**  
Rain down, rain down, rain down your  
love on your peo - ple. love, God of life.

**Verses**  
1. Faith-ful and true is the word of our God. All of God's  
2. We who re - vere and find hope in our God live in the  
3. God of cre - a - tion, we long for your truth; you are the  
1. works are so wor - thy of trust. God's mer - cy falls on the  
2. kind - ness and joy of God's wing. God will pro - tect us from  
3. wa - ter of life that we thirst. Grant that your love and your  
1. just and the right; full of God's love is the earth.  
2. dark - ness and death; God will not leave us to starve.  
3. peace touch our hearts, all of our hope lies in you.

to Refrain

## DISMISSAL

A Rooted in God's grace,  
C **we joyfully witness and serve.**

## POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

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

Join us for **Fellowship in the Pavilion** after worship each Sunday!

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

If you are unable to come inside, we will serve Communion to those who prefer to remain in their cars.

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

## The Week at a Glance

### TODAY, January 9, 2022

Exploring Membership at Mount Cross,  
11:00 a.m.

Are you interested in becoming a member of Mount Cross? Come to an informational meeting in the Parish Life Center today, at 11:00 a.m.

Youth Group, 6:00 p.m.

Youth Group meets at 6:00 p.m. Questions, contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)).

### Monday, January 10

Monday Meditation, 3:00 p.m.

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

### Tuesday, January 11

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

The Women's Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary and is following the *Gather* magazine study.

Care Team, 2:00 p.m.

The Care Team meets at 2:00 p.m.

CDC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

The CDC Board meets on Zoom at 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 12

Programs Return!

Intro to Holy Communion,  
5:00 p.m.

Children ages 5 years and older are invited to join Pastor Julie with their parents this Wednesday and next from 5:00-6:00 p.m. to learn about Holy Communion. We'll celebrate their First Communion at our 9:30 a.m. worship on January 23. Contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) if you'd like to attend.

Fun with Faith, 5:00 p.m.

Fun with Faith happens at 5:00 p.m. in the Pavilion. Contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) with questions.

Adult Bible Study, 5:00 p.m.

Adult Bible Study meets at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Life Center to study the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday, led by the Rev. Susan Klein this month.

Wednesday Dinner, 6:00 p.m.

Our Wednesday dinner is at 6:00 p.m., in the Pavilion or Parish Life Center. Suggested donation, \$5.

Bell Choir, 6:15 p.m.

The Bell Choir rehearses in the sanctuary loft, masked and with the doors open.

Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.  
Confirmation begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Pavilion.  
Contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com) for info.

Choir, 7:30 p.m.  
The Choir rehearses in the sanctuary from 7:30–8:15  
p.m., masked and with the doors open.

**Thursday, January 13**

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

### **Gratitude from the Wullschlegers**

*Howard and I are so grateful for Pastor Julie, shoppers, John Grennan, and all the many cards sent by you. Howard is in Hospice which is helping to keep him comfortable. How fortunate we all are to be a part of this church and the blessings of God. I pray that 2022 will be a happier year for all of us.*

*Thank you, Joanna Wullschleger*

## **Announcements**

### **Sunday Worship**

The Re-Opening Committee meets monthly to review our COVID precautions. We continue to require masks for indoor worship. Masks are optional for outdoor worship in the pavilion, but please maintain social distancing. We also need worship assistants:

<https://signup.com/Group/7769976983269200115/>.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep Mount Cross safe!

### **Help with Drive-through and Sanctuary Communion Reception**

We are looking for help to make Sunday Sanctuary 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.

### **Children, Youth, and Family Ministry**

Our programs return this week. Check the newsletter or email Joe (joe@mountcross.com) for any questions.

### **Anti-Racism Work of the Week:**

*These links are offered by the Peace & Justice Team in a spirit of goodwill to those who are seeking to learn from diverse voices and take action towards reconciliation and healing. We invite everyone to be a part of these ongoing conversations as we learn together.*

A new year sometimes causes us to look at all sorts of different aspects of our lives... if you are looking at your investments, maybe now is the time to rethink how your investments are working against (or for) racism and hate.

[How Cryptocurrency Revolutionized the White Supremacist Movement](#) | [Southern Poverty Law Center \(splcenter.org\)](http://splcenter.org)

### **Vaccine Sign-up Site**

COVID-19 vaccines are available by appointment at [MyTurn.CA.gov](http://MyTurn.CA.gov) or for walk-ins.

### **Altar Flowers**

To request flowers for our worship: <http://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2021>. The cost is \$35.00; you can take the arrangement home with you after worship, or pick it up at Communion following worship. If you aren't here but would still like flowers, please let us know; we'll deliver the arrangement to another member to enjoy.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Our Prayer Shawl ministry could use additional helpers to knit or crochet prayer shawls to be given to those in need of comfort. To give a shawl or for instructions to knit or crochet one, contact Diana Hagen (805-482-6411).

### **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](mailto:jbrundage@mountcross.com).

### **Amazon Smile**

If you haven't already done so, choose Mount Cross Lutheran Church as your non-profit to support on smile.amazon.com so 0.5% of purchases will go to Mount Cross. Thank you!

### **St. Columba's Food Pantry**

Each Sunday, we have a bin where you can bring non-perishable food for St. Columba's Project Hope food pantry. Canned vegetables or proteins are always a good choice. They could also use boxes of breakfast cereal. **Please do not**

**donate food that is expired.**  
Thanks for your support.

## **Worship Guidelines**

The Re-opening Committee met and has decided to stay the course for our worship.

**Masks are still required for indoor worship.** Although some places have chosen to make masks optional for those who are vaccinated, we, as Lutherans, love to sing and there are concerns about singing indoors and keeping people safe, which is our first priority. Because we love to sing and out of respect to those in our congregation who cannot yet be vaccinated (including children under 12), masks are required indoors for worship. Masks are optional **outside** and we offer seating in the pavilion outdoors, but we ask you to keep socially distanced from those not in your household. Thanks for your continued cooperation in following these guidelines to help keep Mount Cross safe.

## **Lutheran Disaster Response - Colorado Wildfire**

The Marshall Fire ignited on December 30 in Boulder County, Colorado. Over 6,200 acres burned quickly, forcing the evacuations of 35,000 people. The fire spread throughout suburban neighborhoods, destroying at least 500 homes. While December wildfires are rare, the severe drought in the western United States created hazardous conditions that allowed the Marshall Fire to spread rapidly. This unusual fire is one of the impacts of a changing climate and will become increasingly more common.

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with the Rocky Mountain Synod and Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains to respond to the impact of the fires. We anticipate that immediate needs will include emotional and spiritual care, temporary shelters, food and other necessities.

With local partners, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to accompany survivors throughout the years of long-term recovery.

We pray that God may comfort and protect those impacted by the wildfires in Colorado. Together, we can walk with survivors and show them that they are not alone.

[Your gifts to "U.S. Wildfires" will be used in full \(100%\) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete.](#) You may also make a general donation so that LDR and immediately respond to disasters in the United States and around the world whenever they might strike.

[Please give to Lutheran Disaster Response.](#)

## **No Pressure: Exploring Membership at Mount Cross**

Do you wonder what it means to be an official member of Mount Cross Lutheran Church? Do you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to join Mount Cross? Are you energized by the worship, people, programs, and outreach at Mount Cross and want to be part of our Christian community? Do you feel welcome at Mount Cross and want to claim us as your church home?

Are you ready to go deeper in your spiritual journey and walk with others along the way?

Have you moved here from another ELCA congregation and want to transfer your membership to Mount Cross?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions or are simply curious, come **explore membership at Mount Cross TODAY, January 9, at 11:00 a.m.**

## **Intro. to Holy Communion**

Join us Wednesday, January 12 and 19, for an Intro. to Holy Communion Class, led by Pastor Julie from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Children ages 5 years and older are invited to come with their parents both weeks to learn about Holy Communion. We will celebrate the milestone of their First Communion at worship on January 23.

Please contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) if you would like to attend.

## **Winter Camps - DATE CHANGES**

In the interest of the health and safety of guests and staff, **several of the LRCC Winter Retreats have been pushed back.** We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you and your family and we sincerely hope you will still join.

If you have questions, please contact Joe Zimmerly ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) or email [office@lrcchome.com](mailto:office@lrcchome.com).

**February 25-27 - new date**

**El Camino Pines Middle School & High School Winter Retreat COMBINED**  
El Camino Pines

**March 11-13 - new date**

**El Camino Pines Family Winterfest**  
El Camino Pines

## **Invitation to St Columba's Book Group for Epiphany**

At the time of her death at 37, author **Rachel Held Evans** was working on her next book. ***Wholehearted Faith*** is a compilation of the beginnings of that work, along with other essays and thought pieces, lovingly compiled by her friend Jeff Chu into a rich collection of essays that ask candid questions about the stories we've been told—and the stories we tell—about our faith, ourselves, and our world, all with her down-to-earth style stretching the reader with her questions.

Join St. Columba's Episcopal Church to explore *Wholehearted Faith* and the stories we tell, for a **six-week study**—Tuesdays on Zoom or Thursdays in person, **beginning Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom <https://bit.ly/WholeheartedBookZoom>, or in person in St. Columba's parish hall starting January 20 at 10:45 a.m.** (after St. Columba's Thursday Eucharists). Get your copy of the book and let the office know (805-482-3847, [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com)) which session you'd like to attend. (If you have a conflict for one week, you can switch between Zoom and in-person sessions.)

## **Hospitality Sign-ups Now Online!**

Who doesn't enjoy a hot cup of coffee and a light snack after church on Sunday mornings? Sign-ups for hosting a Sunday morning Hospitality on the patio has gone online. The new link is: [https://bit.ly/MtCross\\_Hospitality](https://bit.ly/MtCross_Hospitality). Thank you for your service to the Mount Cross community!