

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 www.mountcross.com



*For those of you worshiping 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>.*

**15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 5, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson

GATHERING SONG - "All Are Welcome" - ELW 641 - Verses 1, 2 & 4

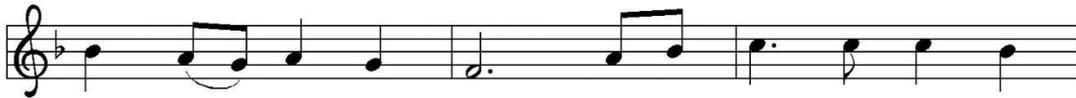
As able, the assembly stands.



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

(Silence for reflection)

C Almighty God,
**to you all hearts are open, all desires known.
We come to you, confessing our sins.
Forgive us in your mercy,
and remember us in your love.
Show us your ways; teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

P By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth,
and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ,
God forgives you all your sins.
The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life.

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.

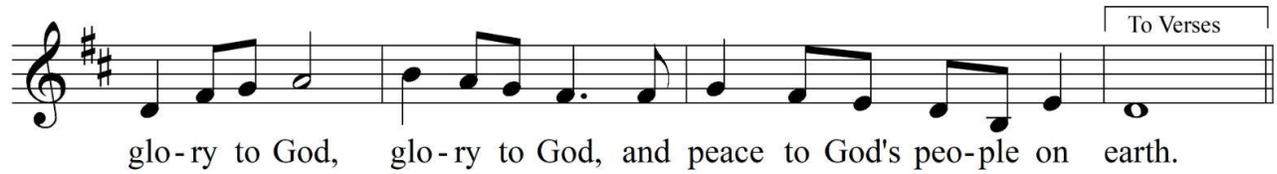
C **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE - "Glory to God" - ELW 213

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Final

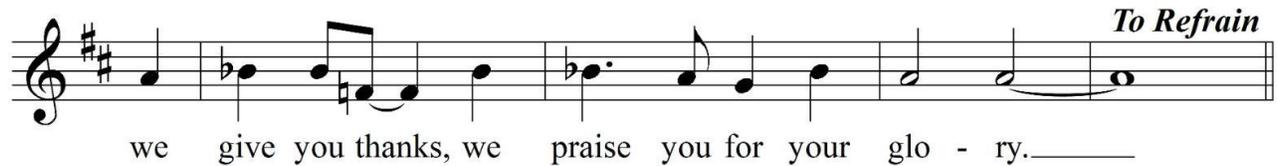


earth, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Verse 1

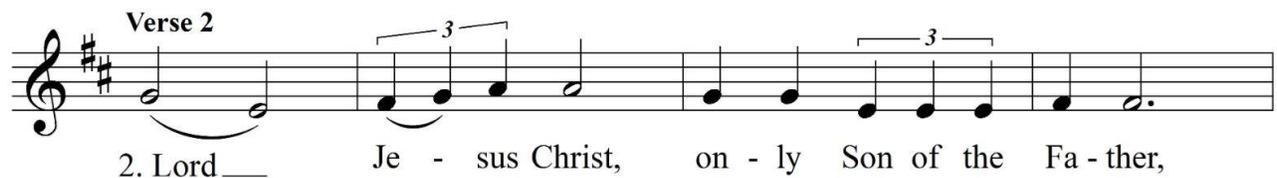


1. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you,

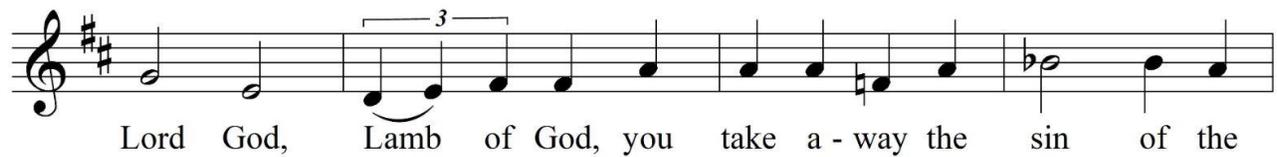


we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

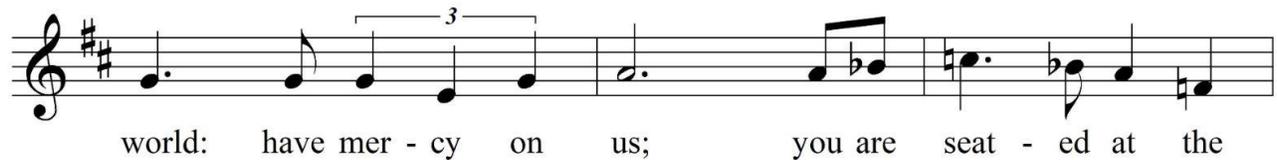
Verse 2



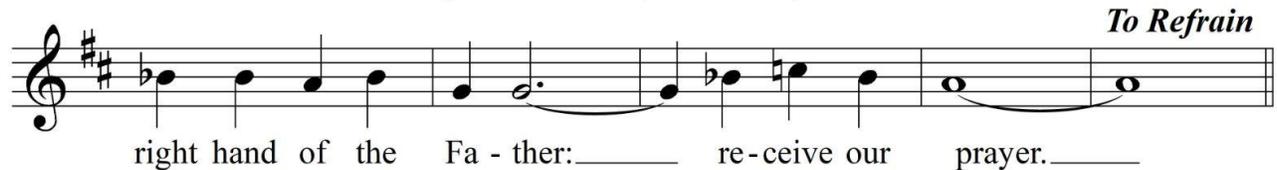
2. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Verse 3

3. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men. _____

To Final Refrain

Text © 2002, *Holy Baptism and Related Rites*, Renewing Worship, vol. 3, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music: Jeremy Young, © 2003, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Joe Zimmerly

CHILDREN'S SONG: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying - ELW 752 (sing 2x's)

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943
 Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema
 Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

The sayings in the book of Proverbs impart the collective wisdom of centuries. Speaking of wealth and poverty, these particular verses teach that those who are blessed by God should honor the poor, for they are within God's special care.

¹A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. ²The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all. ⁸Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. ⁹Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; ²³for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF RESPONSE - "Open the Eyes of My Heart" (Baloche) - CCLI Song #2298355

Chorus

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Verse

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Bridge

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You



SECOND READING: James 2:1-10, 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "Alle, Alleluia" (Schaner/Keil)

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

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

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

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

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON - Pastor Bill Knutson



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

SONG OF THE DAY - "In Christ There Is No East or West" - ELW 650

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ - ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

The image shows a musical score for the song "In Christ There Is No East or West". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four lines of the song, and the second system contains the final three lines. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

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 Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church, especially our Mount Cross congregation and our full-communion partner churches in Camarillo, St. Columba's Episcopal and Camarillo United Methodist. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bring rain to drought-stricken areas and relief to the Gulf Coast and all places where hurricanes have brought destruction from wind and rain. Help those places where wildfires continue to rage. Prompt us to assist all victims of weather and natural disasters in the best way that we can. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations and bring peace to Afghanistan and all areas of instability. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we celebrate Labor Day tomorrow, unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. We give thanks for all who labor in service to others, those who provide food from field to table or goods that we need or want; healthcare, social, and spiritual workers who care for our bodies, minds, and spirits; first responders, law enforcement, and military personnel who keep us safe; teachers who expand our minds and inspire our dreams; and artists and musicians who enrich our lives. We pray for anyone who is in search of employment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A You bring healing and wholeness where there is brokenness or despair. Send your comfort and relief to all those who are hurting or in need, especially to *(those on our prayer list below)*. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, Crista and Bonnie** (niece and sister of Karen Cherry), **Gail Cline** (daughter of Karen & Jim Gramacki), **Steve Doshier** (brother-in-law of Paul Crockett), **Steve Engh** (friend of Gayle & Cy Johnson), **Bob Edell, Natalie Faltin, Linda Frantz, the family of David Gale** (friend of Herb & Jo Holler), **Charles Hilley, Jo Holler, Nancy Jaeger, Michelle Kolder** (daughter of Karen & Joe Diehl), **Dick Kuchera** (Evonne Kuchera's husband's uncle), **Rick Mahlke** (son of friend of Barbara Burke), **Emilie** (friend of Carina McVeigh), **Lucille Miley, the family of Norm Morgan, Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson** (mother of Julie Fernandez), **Mary O'Donnell, Jennifer** (daughter of Mary O'Donnell), **Michael and Mercedes Olivera** (brother of Courtney Burke), **Anna and John** (sister of Mona Neuhaus and her sister's partner), **James, Albert Rodriguez**, father of Marion & Bob Cole's daughter-in-law Amanda), **Gloria Saldano** (mother of Lisa Saner) **and the Saner family, Larry** (brother of Lisa Saner), **Marlene** (sister of Lisa Saner), **Maria Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Chris, Wayne & Maria Truchan** (friends of the Burke family), **Jerry Warren, the family of Toy White** (friend of Becky Riley), **Howard Wullschleger, the family of Wade Young** (father of Kevin Young).

*Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests remain in the bulletin for four weeks.
If you would like to add or remove someone to or from the prayer list, please
e-mail the church office at office@mountcross.com or call 805.482.3847.*

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

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**



OFFERING SONG - "Here I Am to Worship" (Hughes) - CCLI #3266032

Verse 1

*Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You*

Chorus

*So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

Verse 2

*King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor*

Bridge

*And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross*



OFFERING PRAYER

- A Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**

As able, the assembly stands for the Great Thanksgiving.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

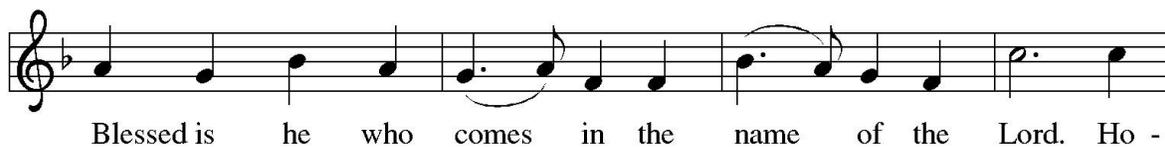
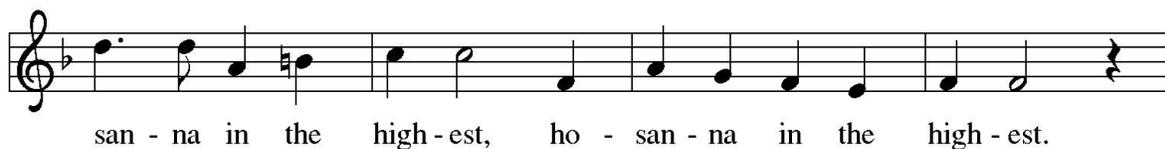
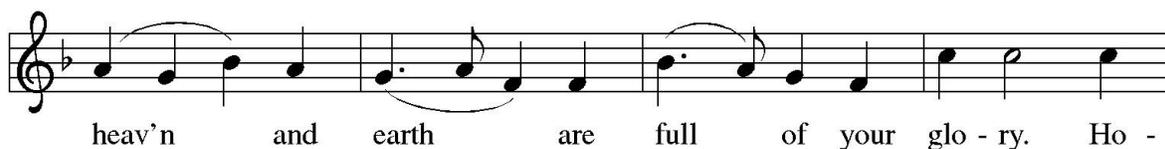
P Lift up your hearts.

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:



Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, b. 1937

Music © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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P We praise you, all-holy God,
for the goodness and love 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.

On the night before he died for us, 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.

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

P Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Christ,
and renew the world with your mercy.
We praise you, all-holy God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit
today, tomorrow, and forever.

C Amen.

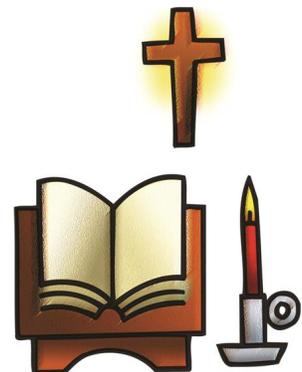
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

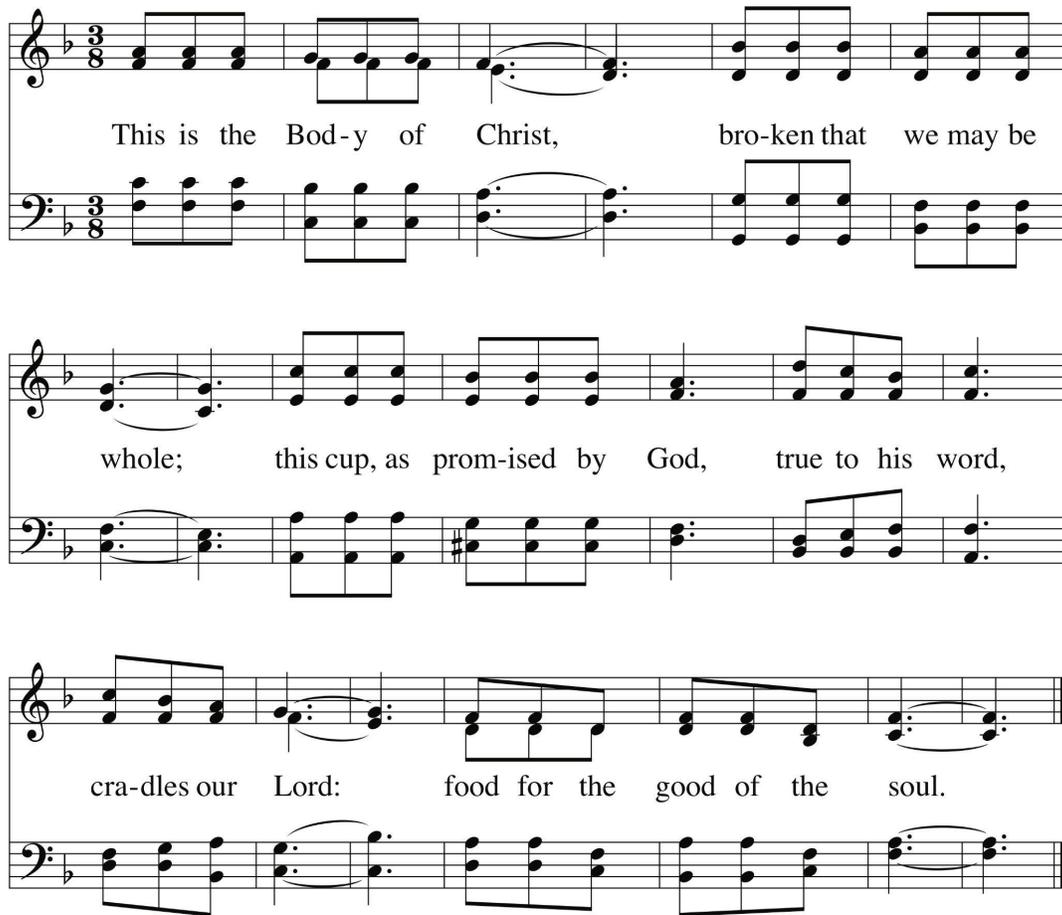
BREAKING OF THE BREAD

P Taste and see that the Lord is good!

The assembly may be seated.



LAMB OF GOD - "This Is the Body of Christ" (Bell)



This is the Bod-y of Christ, bro-ken that we may be
whole; this cup, as prom-ised by God, true to his word,
cra-dles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949
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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).

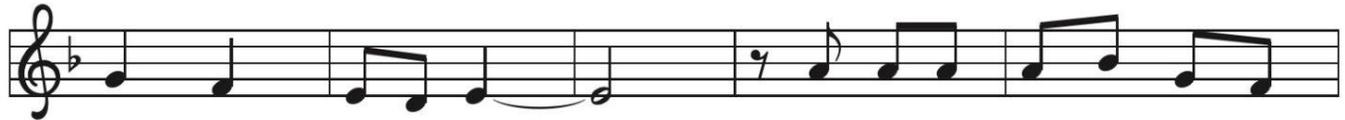
Fill us all with your love and grace, and strengthen us to serve the world in your name. Amen.¹

¹ Adapted by Pastor Julie from a prayer written by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

COMMUNION SONGS - "There Is a Longing" - ACS 1078



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.



| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 For jus - tice, | for free - dom, | for mer - cy: |
| 2 For wis - dom, | for cour - age, | for com - fort: |
| 3 For heal - ing, | for whole - ness, | for new life: |
| 4 Lord, save us, | take pit - y, | light in our |



| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| hear our prayer. | In sor - row, | in grief: |
| hear our prayer. | In weak - ness, | in fear: |
| hear our prayer. | In sick - ness, | in death: |
| deep - est night. | We call you; | we wait: |



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

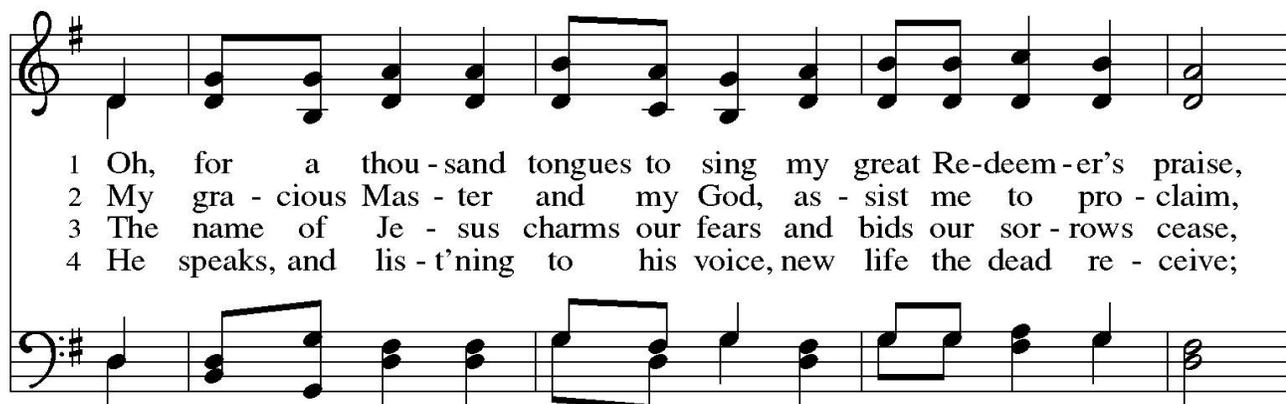
Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

Text and music © 1992 Anne Quigley. Published by OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.



“O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” - ELW 886



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. And the blessing of God, Holy eternal Mystery, † Holy incarnate Word, and Holy abiding Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

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Today, we welcome the Rev. Bill Knutson and thank him for leading us in worship. Pastor Bill Knutson lives in Ventura and worked for many years in Silicon Valley as a technical writer before being ordained. He is husband to Carin, an editorial manager at Patagonia, and father to Blake, a teacher and musician in Los Angeles, and Clare, who is pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy. Educated at Occidental College and Episcopal Divinity School, Pastor Bill is an avid distance runner and vegetarian cook.

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 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**. 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, September 5, 2021

Fair Trade Sale and Card Ministry after Worship

Fair Trade Sale

Support the labor of small farmers around the world by purchasing fair trade foods at our monthly sale.

Card Ministry

Join us for our Card Ministry kick-off after worship under the pavilion! You can join us in person or you can pick up some cards to take home. Questions, contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

Monday, September 6, 2021 **Labor Day Holiday/Office Closed**

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

**CDC School Year Begins - Prayers
for a Great Year!**

CDC Board, 6:00 p.m.

The CDC Board meets on-site at 6:00 p.m.

Learning Committee, 7:00 p.m.

Learning Committee (typically meets first Monday of the month) meets at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. All are invited to join! Contact Tracy Blois at tracy.allyson@gmail.com for details. Learning Committee plans our children, youth, and family programming working closely with Joe and the amazing CYFM team.

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
The Bell Choir rehearses in the sanctuary loft
at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Quilters, 2:00 p.m.
The Quilters meet in the Parish Life Center
at 2:00 p.m.

Friday, September 10, 2021

Virtual Contemplative Prayer from St.
Columba's, 7:00 p.m.

To mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11, join St.
Columba's for a virtual contemplative prayer service at
7:00 p.m., "Let Us Live in Peace," available on St.
Columba's website (stcolumbaca.com), or their
[Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) channels.

Saturday, September 11, 2021

20th Anniversary of 9/11

Next Sunday, September 12

Worship & Picnic in the Park,
9:30 a.m.

Next Sunday, there will not be worship here at
the church. All are invited to come to **Bob
Kildee Park** (1030 Temple Ave, Camarillo). Bring
a comfortable lawn chair (some folding chairs
provided). Sandwich sack lunches provided (or
bring your own lunch). We'll eat together after
worship and enjoy games and fellowship.

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/MCPicnic> or
contact the church office (805-482-3847 or
office@mountcross.com).

Drive-through only communion (no inside
communion) will be available at the church
from 11:00 a.m.-Noon.

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

Programs resume September 15 so check the newsletter
or email Joe (joe@mountcross.com) for details or
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.*

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church Bishop
Reginald T. Jackson wrote, "Racism will not end with the
passage of legislation alone; it will also require a change
of heart and thinking." He went on to say, "We will call
upon every church, temple, mosque and faith
communion to make their worship service on this

Sunday a time to confess and repent for the sin and evil
of racism, this includes ignoring, tolerating and accepting
racism, and to make a commitment to end racism by the
example of our lives and actions."

<https://jfbbeddingfield.com/2015/09/06/with-jesus-becoming-a-little-less-racist/>

Vaccine Sign-up Site

COVID-19 vaccines are available by appointment
at MyTurn.CA.gov or for walk-ins.
Locations available throughout the county!

Altar Flowers

To request flowers for our worship:
<http://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2021>. The cost remains
\$35.00; you are welcome to take the arrangement
home with you after worship, or pick it up at
Sanctuary/Drive-through Communion. If you are
not present but would still like flowers, please let
us know and we can deliver the arrangement to a
homebound 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.

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. Thanks for your support!

Altar Guild Opportunities

Do you have an interest in the preparation of the Lord's Supper? Are you looking for a behind-the-scenes way to serve the church? Are you looking to meet new and old members of the congregation? Please consider volunteering for the Altar Guild. We are getting back to a new normal for set-up and clean-up and are looking to revitalize the Altar Guild. There will be a **training** for all by Pastor Julie on **Saturday, September 18, at 10:00 a.m.**, on the procedures to follow. Please let Carol Broderick (805-444-2898, cell, or carolbroderick@msn.com) or Carol Browning (office@mountcross.com or 805-482-3847) know if you are interested in this opportunity.

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 - Hurricane Ida



The headlines are filled with the devastation from Hurricane Ida, which made landfall near New Orleans on August 30 — exactly 16 years after Hurricane Katrina. As a strong Category 4 storm, Hurricane Ida's 150 mph winds, torrential rain and strong storm surge caused widespread flooding and wind damage in southeastern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi. Homes are flooded and residents are awaiting rescue, which is hampered by the high waters and debris-clogged roads. Strong winds knocked out power lines and electrical substations, leaving more than 1 million people without power, including the entirety of New Orleans. In some areas, electricity is not expected to be restored for weeks. Ida weakened into a tropical storm as it moved inland and will likely cause heavy flooding in Mississippi, Alabama, and the Tennessee and Upper Ohio valleys.

The impact of Ida is yet to be fully assessed, but with a hurricane of this scale, rebuilding will be costly and take years. With extensive experience in accompanying communities throughout the relief and long-term recovery phases, Lutheran Disaster Response is working with local ELCA synods and Lutheran social service organizations to coordinate a response to Hurricane Ida. Immediate needs will include food, basic necessities and temporary housing. Long after the headlines change, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to accompany communities on the journey of rebuilding their homes and lives.

Checks or money orders may be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response ("Hurricane Ida" in the memo line) at Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009, donate by phone at 800-638-3522, or make a contribution [online](#).

Lutheran Disaster Response - Haiti Earthquake

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on Saturday morning. Over 1,400 people were killed, and that number is expected to increase as search-and-rescue efforts continue. Blocked roads are delaying the delivery of vital supplies to hospitals, which are overwhelmed with more than 6,900 injured people. At least 26,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, but the full extent of damage is still unknown. Haiti is also suffering through a political crisis and was hit by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night, which caused severe flooding in communities already damaged by the earthquake.

For over two decades, the ELCA has maintained a presence in southern Haiti through support for agricultural and sustainable development work. To continue our engagement with those communities, Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with partner organizations in the communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. In the future, other areas of support will include psychosocial care, water and sanitation, and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and livestock. We also stand with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti as it assesses damage and impacts on churches and church life.

Checks or money orders can be sent to: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Write "Haiti Crisis" on your check memo line.
Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or [online](#).

Our Afghan Allies Need Your Help

By now, you've likely seen the distressing headlines and images coming out of Kabul. At Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service, we are devastated by the fall of Afghanistan's elected government and our hearts break for our Afghan allies, their families, and all those in grave danger of Taliban retaliation. Our prayers are with our imperiled Afghan neighbors and we stand in solidarity with all those who are living in fear. At this time, the immediate evacuation of American citizens, our Afghan allies, and other vulnerable groups is our central focus. We remain hopeful that the U.S. military will be able to secure the airport in Kabul and restore order. Our priority is ensuring that a safe channel is established for evacuation.

LIRS is doing everything we can to save as many lives as possible and serve those who have already arrived in the United States—but we need your help.

On our website, <https://www.lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies/> please find five ways you can take action - volunteer, donate, advocate, pray, and teach - to support Afghan families.

We are all devastated and horrified by the attacks that have rattled the Kabul airport. We mourn the victims of this crisis and we pray for their families amid this unthinkable loss.

Check out the video below which explains the warm welcome LIRS and their partners provide. The need is urgent. Tens of thousands of our Afghan neighbors are arriving in the United States and are in need of basic necessities such as food, housing, and medical care as they await the services available to them.

[\(467\) How LIRS Helps Our Afghan Neighbors in America - YouTube](#)

If you haven't had a chance to contribute to the Neighbors in Need: Afghan Allies fund, and would still like to, please do so.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits Collection



Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is de-prioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Here's what they need:

- 70-sheet notebooks, wide or college rule (need 4 per kit)
- 30-centimeter rulers (can have inches too)
- pencil sharpeners
- blunt scissors (rounded tip, not pointed)
- unsharpened #2 pencils
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink please, it doesn't transport well)
- boxes of crayons (16-24 size)
- rectangle erasers (the pink wedge kind)

These items are very specific and cannot have any religious symbols or messages, U.S. flags, patriotic/military symbols/armed forces/camouflage. Pay attention to the Target and Staples ads—every week they have at least one of these items for 25 cents. You will find bins in the cabinet in the back of the sanctuary to sort your items, or just place the items on top of the cabinet and they will be sorted later.

If you would like the shopping done for you, please place your donation in the offering plate—making sure it is marked for LWR Kits. Melissa Henry is happy to make lots of Target and Staples runs! Last year, we assembled 197 school kits—let's see if we can break 200 this year!

Child Development Center Scholarship Fund

Founding director Cathy Channels recently retired from our Mount Cross Child Development Center preschool after 33 years. To honor her dedication and commitment to the CDC, a "**Cathy Channels Scholarship Fund**" has been established. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you can donate online or bring/mail a check, payable to Mount Cross Lutheran Church. Please designate "Cathy Channels Scholarship" in the memo field.

Harbor House - Helping Those Who Struggle in the Conejo Valley



Dear Friends of Harbor House,

We had hoped by the Fall of 2021, we would be close to opening up our daily sit-down meal program. Due to the rise of the Delta variant, we are going to be cautious and continue with our pick-up program. To keep this program going, we need more people to sign up to bring lunches. We are hoping you can pick a day where you make 10 or more lunches, our sign-up sheet is blank in many spots. Thank you for continuing to support this program on a daily basis. Last week we finished our 76th week of this lunch/meal program and last week we served 511 meals. Our program is open every day for anyone who needs a meal. The sign up button is on our website. Please help if you can.

We are also working with groups and individuals to have as many hot meals as possible during the month. In August, we had 22 hot dinners out of the 31 days which is the best we've done so far. We also have sign-ups available on our website to bring hot meals.

Besides supporting our community with meals, we are supporting our neighbors by helping with rent and utility payments. We have many people hard hit by Covid who need the help so they can remain housed with their lights on. To further support this work, we will be having a fundraiser on October 3. We hope you can join us for our first Concert 4 the Conejo (see the link below for information). We will be outdoors and we hope you can join us for some music, fun and food.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us as work through the pandemic and continue to help our most vulnerable people. I am awed every day by the generosity of spirit that lives here in the Conejo Valley. Without you, Harbor House would not be able to do our work.

Sheri Groenveld
Operations Director, Harbor House

Go to the Harbor House website: <https://www.harborhouseto.org/> -
Sign up to make lunches or to provide hot meals or donate for their Amazon wish list.

Information on the 10/3 concert -
<https://www.harborhouseto.org/concert-4-the-conejo.html>

Next Sunday - Come to the Park for
Our Worship and Picnic

Worship in the Park & Church Picnic
Sunday, September 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Join Us for Park Worship!
In the covered picnic area at Bob Kildee Park
(1030 Temple Ave. in Camarillo)

Bring your most comfortable lawn chairs (some folding chairs will be provided).
We will have sandwich sack lunches available. We encourage those who enjoy a more
elaborate picnic or who have special dietary requirements to bring your own.

We will all eat together after worshipping together
and then enjoy games and fellowship. Invite your
families, neighbors, and friends!

Sign-up online at <https://bit.ly/MCPicnic> or
at church on Sundays or call or email the
church office at (805) 482-3847 or
office@mountcross.com.



Sign up for the Church Picnic **here!**