

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 www.mountcross.com



**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020, 9:30 a.m.**

PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Faithful God,

C **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

C **Amen.**



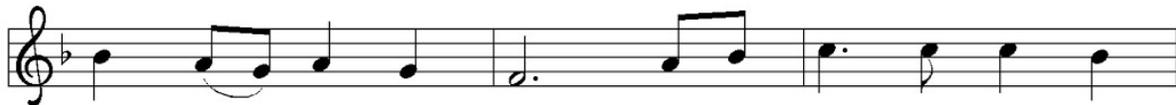
GATHERING SONG - "All Are Welcome" - ELW 641, verses 1-3



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.

- 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

Assisting minister



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

All



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.



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.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Joe Zimmerly

CHILDREN'S SONG - "Jesus, We Are Gathered" - ELW 529 (sing twice in English)

Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, Je - su, ta - wa pa - no,
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, Je - sus, we are gath-ered,

Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re - nyu.
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, we are gath-ered, Lord Je - sus, for you.

Text: Patrick Matsikenyiri

Music: JESU, TAWA PANO, Patrick Matsikenyiri

Text and music © 1990, 1996 General Board of Global Ministries, GBG Musik, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115.

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FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-17

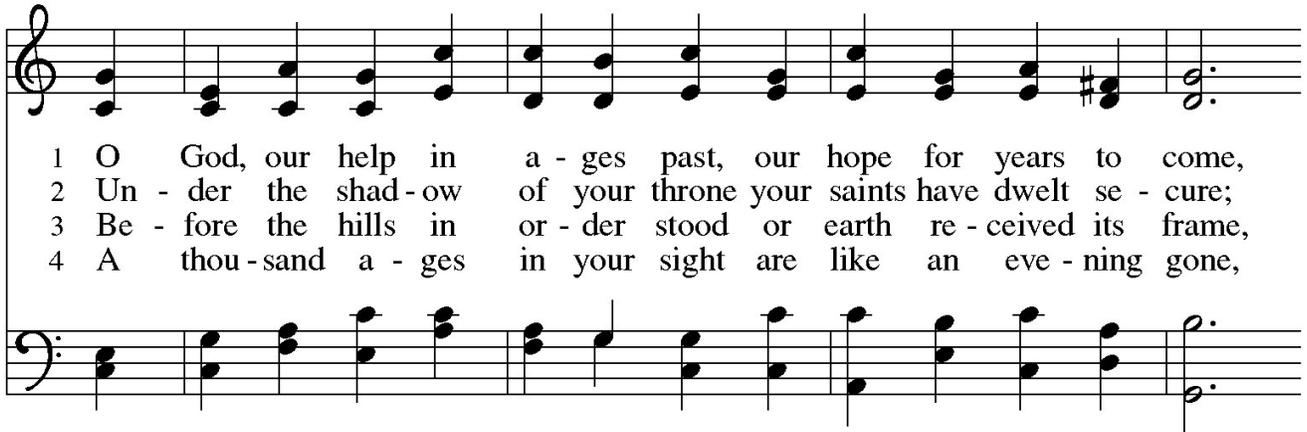
Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE - "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" - ELW 632, verses 1-3



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13 (Video, read by Wednesday Bible Study)

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

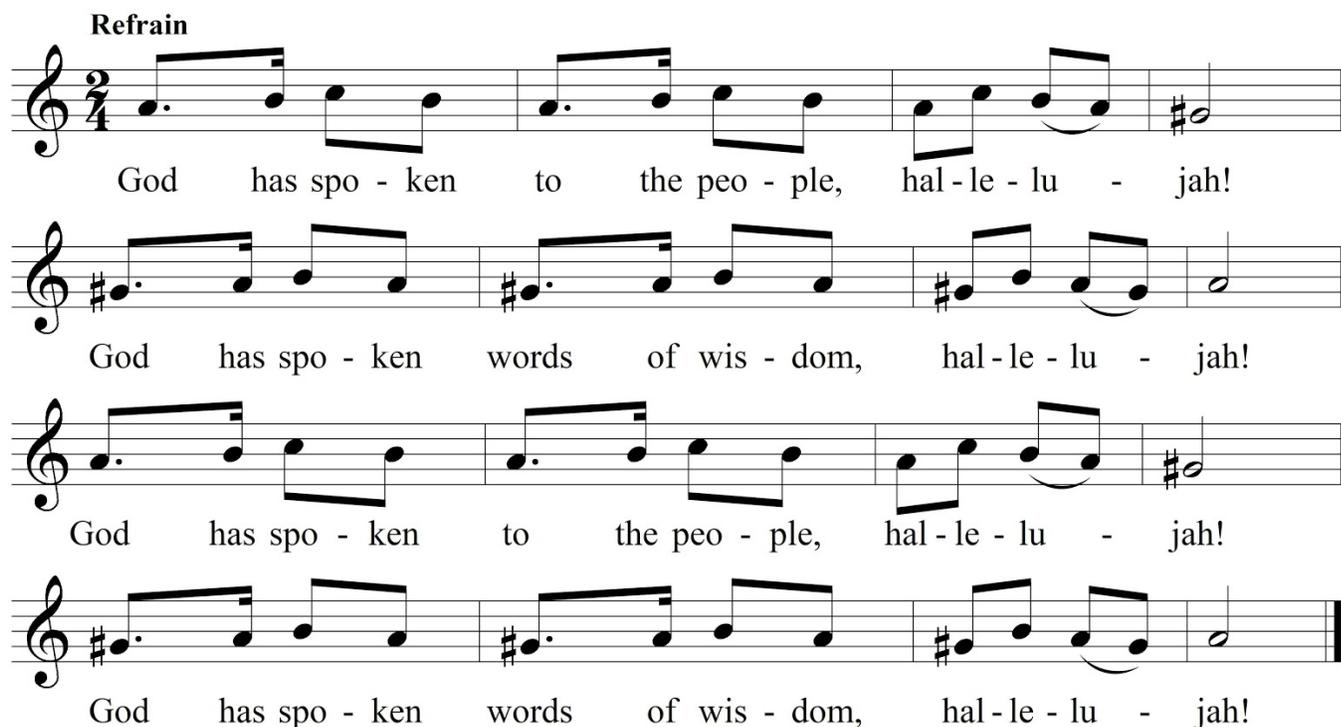
L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – ELW 519 (Refrain)

Refrain



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!

God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!

God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, 1930-2019, English version.

Text © 1966, 1982, Willard F. Jabusch, OCP Publications.

Music: Hasidic tune (YISRAEL V'ORATA, 9 8 9 5 and refrain).



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to Matthew.

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

[²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The assembly is seated.



SERMON - Pastor Julie Morris

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

SONG OF THE DAY - "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.

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.
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 Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Each intercession ends, “Lord, in your mercy.” All respond, “Hear our prayer.”

A All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING SONG - “Hold On” (spiritual) - (Video, sung by Akirah Renée)



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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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'n 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, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C We bless you, O God.

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C We thank you, O God.

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.

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

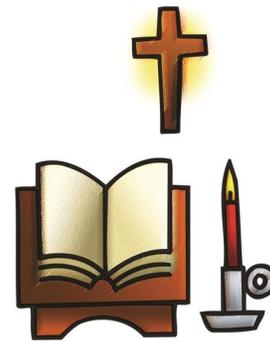
C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. 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.



The assembly may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on the Agnus Dei
Music: LAND OF REST, North American

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 presider invites the following prayer to be said by all:

Jesus, my savior and friend, thank you for your presence in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and your presence with us here and now. Trusting your words, "This is my body; this is my blood—given for you," I welcome you into my heart. Let my life witness to your grace and peace. Strengthen all of us with faith, hope and love until we can meet at your table again. Amen.¹



¹ Adapted by Pastor Julie from prayers written by Bishop Guy Erwin and St. Alphonsus Liguori.

COMMUNION SONG - "In Christ Alone" (Getty & Townend)



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2. In Christ a - lone who took on flesh - full - ness of
3. There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song - this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe! - this gift of love and right - eous -
world by dark - ness slain; then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fin - al



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save. 'Til on the
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain! And as he
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of



love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
cross as Je - sus died, the love of God was cru - ci -
stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
hell, no hu - man plan, can ev - er pluck me from his



cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all, here in the
fied. For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid; here in the
me; for I am his and he is mine, bought with the
hand; 'til he re - turns or calls me home, here in the



love of Christ I stand. _____
death of Christ I live. _____
pre - cious blood of Christ. _____
pow'r of Christ, I'll stand! _____

Words (adapt.) and music, Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2002, ThankYou Music,
admin. worldwide at Capitol CMG Publishing (excl. Europe admin. by Integrity Music).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P Mothering God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

P Rooted in God's grace,
C we joyfully witness and serve!

POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

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Join us for **Coffee Hour on Zoom** following this service! Grab a cup of coffee or tea and some treats and visit with us. The Zoom link is <https://bit.ly/coffeehour102>
OR you can call in from your phone. Dial **1 (669) 900-6833**. You will be asked for the meeting ID number. It is **574 003 985** and then push pound (#).

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. Pick up a 2020 directory, if you haven't already. If you need to make corrections to the directory, please email office@mountcross.com or call 805-482-3847, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

Today we pray in thanksgiving to God for Travis and Jacquanna Davis, for the ways they have blessed our congregation this year.

We ask God to guide and protect them as they move to Washington, D.C., for Travis' new assignment.

We pray for an end to the coronavirus and for the families grieving the loss of each victim.

We pray for the family of Jim Sobolik, who passed away from severe complications related to leukemia, especially for his children Matthew & Melissa and his ex-wife Denise.

We pray also for Elizabeth A, Roger Allmandinger (brother-in-law of Jim & Susan Prosser), **Sharon Benner** (sister of Karen Gramacki), **Mike Carpenter, Richard Casey** (friend of Mary Kienitz), **Terry Cline** (relative of Jim & Karen Gramacki), **Rob Conant, Barbara D'Addario, Bob Edell, Steve Engh** (friend of Gayle & Cy Johnson), **Ron Higginbotham, Luke Hahn** (son of Erica Hahn, Mount Cross preschool teacher), **Sandy Knierim** (daughter of Barb Sletten) **Nury Martinez-Silva** (friend of Bernie Lau), **Karen Nelson, Audrey Posthauer, Lisa Saner, Byron Selbrede** (brother of Keith Selbrede), **Patricia Springer** (mother of Joan Brundage).

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.

The Week at a Glance

Monday, September 28, 2020

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 (#).

Upper Room Zoom, 12:00 noon

Upper Room Zoom meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Join us as often as you'd like.

The Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84747459576>
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 (#).

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

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

Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. This week, we're moving to a **new location**: Valle Lindo Park, 889 Aileen St, Camarillo, CA 93010. Please wear a mask and bring a chair.

Family Faith Night 7:00 p.m.

Join us for Family Faith Night on Zoom! Gather your family to pray together, play a game, and read the Gospel story. Contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com) for the Zoom info.

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Fun with Faith, 5:00 p.m.

Fun with Faith (Preschool through

5th grade) meets with Jessica and Inger.

Gather at the church office at 5:00 to be escorted to the park by Jessica and Inger. Children will be picked up back at the church at 6:00 p.m.

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

The Intro. to Holy Communion class is September 30 and October 7 at 5:00 p.m. This is for children who have not had any instruction about Holy Communion or for those who want a refresher. Pastor Julie and Joe help children appreciate this great gift of Jesus' presence and grace so they can receive the Sacrament with gratitude and joy. Those who do not attend are invited to join Jessica and Inger for Fun With Faith.

Sign up with this link:

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

Adult Bible Study, 5:00 p.m.

On Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m., we gather to study the Gospel for the upcoming week. To join by computer or smart phone/tablet, go to this link <https://zoom.us/j/861819171> or to call on your phone dial 1 (669) 900-6833. You will be asked to enter the Meeting ID which is 861 819 171 and then push pound (#). All are welcome.

Confirmation, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Students preparing for Confirmation meet with Joe Zimmerly on-site. Email Joe (joe@mountcross.com) if you have any questions.

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Upper Room Zoom, 12:00 noon

Upper Room Zoom meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Join us as often as you'd like.

The Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84747459576>

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 (#).

Family Bike Ride, 4:30 p.m.

Let's Ride on October 1 at 4:30 p.m.! Join us for a family bike ride outside, around the "Village at the Park" area. Bring your bike, a mask, water and even a friend if you want. We will be offering two groups this time: a ride along the Calleguas Creek bike path or ride in the parking lot. Feel free to join either one. Meet at 3777 Village at the Park Dr, Camarillo, 93012. If you have any questions, please let Joe know

Announcements

Sunday Worship

The Re-Opening Committee has approved a testing phase for 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, participants should park in designated areas or on the street; sign in and have their 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 sign up to help set up or as a parking lot usher, greeter, or communion assistant, please sign up at <https://signup.com/Group/7769976983269200115/> 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.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

High School Youth Group meets tonight at 6:00 p.m. Email Joe (joe@mountcross.com) for other details or questions.

Introduction to Holy Communion Classes

For children of all ages, our Introduction to Holy Communion classes will be on September 30 and October 7 at 5:00 p.m. This is for children who have not had any instruction about Holy Communion or for those who want a refresher. Pastor Julie and Joe will help children appreciate this great gift of Jesus' presence and grace so they can receive the Sacrament with gratitude and joy. Those who do not attend are invited to join Jessica for Fun With Faith. Sign up with this link: <https://signup.com/go/YiMMfkN>

We encourage parents to attend these classes with their children as well. We will meet outside in person, with masks and physical distancing.

Lutheran World Relief Health Care Kits

The recent explosion in Beirut meant the loss of 22,000 quilts, 100 cartons of School Kits, 300 cartons of Personal Care Kits and 125 cartons of Baby Care Kits. We have work to do, to replace those kits.

Here's what we need:

- light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"×40" & 52"×27"), dark color recommended
- bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- toothbrushes (adult size only, can be in bulk packaging)
- sturdy combs
- metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

These items are very specific and should be new. They cannot have any religious symbols or messages, any patriotic or military symbols, including camouflage or the U.S. flag.

Melissa Henry is willing to be your shopper. You can send a donation to the church office marked "LWR Personal Care Kits" if you want her to do the shopping for you. A donation box to collect the items will be available ANYTIME, sitting by the glass door to the sanctuary near the parking lot. Thank you for your generosity!

September is Suicide Prevention Month

If you or someone you care about is in crisis, there is help. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We're committed to improving crisis services and advancing suicide prevention by empowering individuals, advancing professional best practices, and building awareness. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255.

More Ways to Give

Thank you, Mount Cross congregation, for all the generosity you have shown in these times of trial! We want to make it as simple as possible for you.

If you'd like 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 the April Year-To-Date statements to Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at jbrundage@mountcross.com. Also, if you haven't already, 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

The Food Pantry at St. Columba's continues to serve our community and your gifts of food items have been greatly appreciated. Currently the food pantry is especially seeking **canned vegetables** or **shelf-stable milk**. Your gifts of food can be dropped off at the church during Sunday drive-through communion. Please do not make a specific grocery trip for your items but think of the food pantry while shopping at the store or during a grocery delivery. Please check the "best by" date as the pantry cannot use expired items. Thank you for your generosity!

Card Ministry Seeking Volunteers

The card ministry at Mount Cross sends out notes and cards to members of the congregation who may need a little extra cheer. There are a variety of reasons why we want to express our caring for others of our faith community. If you are interested in joining this caring ministry to send greetings to another at least once a month or more, we would love to have you join in this expression of compassion. Please contact Gayle Johnson with your interest for more information at cygaylej@verizon.net or (805) 388-3293.

St. Columba's Zoom Book Group Waking Up White

St. Columba's is beginning a new book group on *Waking Up White* and Mount Cross folks are welcome to join in. The group will meet via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 (September 29-November 17), OR Thursday mornings at 10:00, (October 1-November 19). Pick up a copy of the book and be part of the discussion. Please let Fr. Greg (greg.larkin@stcolumbaca.com) or St. Columba's office (office.manager@stcolumbaca.com) know in which group you would like to take part.

Take Action! - Vote!

Voting is one way to advocate for policies that advance the call for peace and justice in our communities and nation. Make sure you are registered to vote: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov>. Encourage those you know to vote.

Additional Resources:

Lutheran Office of Public Policy –
California 2020 Voter Guide:
<http://lutheranpublicpolicyca.org/2020-voter-guide>

ELCA Civic Engagement Guide
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCAvotes_civic_engagement_and_voter_education_guide.pdf?_ga=2.36652391.670041802.1599148443-1099257076.1595169200