

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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October 26, 2025 - Reformation Sunday



Lutheran Church of the Cross

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Welcome! - We pray our worship today blesses your life.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Rev. Jeff Irwin, Presiding

PRELUDE

Arr. Tedd Smith

“The Son of God Goes Forth to War”

Mark Coldiron

WELCOME

Kevin Brown

GATHERING HYMN “For by Grace You Have Been Saved”

ELW #598

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P We belong to Christ Jesus, and we are God’s children through faith. In the cross of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, we are a new creation.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray,

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Old Testament Reading ...Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Psalms 46

(read responsively)

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Epistle Reading ... Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING ... John 8:31-36

(Please rise for the Gospel)

P The holy gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Pastor Jeff Irwin

HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

ELW #504

APOSTLES' CREED

(stand)

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*After each petition the Pastor will say: God of grace,
Response: receive our prayer.*

P Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace,

P Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,

P Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,

P Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill. Be our stronghold at all times. Hear our prayers for those on our prayer list and those close to our heart that we name before you aloud or silently.... God of grace,

P Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,

P We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace,

P We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

COMMUNION

(Stand)

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death as he had promised.

Pour out your Spirit of life and power upon us your chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world.

Now send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood.

C Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

P We take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people. We now proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

P Let us pray together the prayer our Lord has taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING *Bring your offering with you as you take Communion. As you return to your seat, place your Offering and your Prayer Requests in the Basket at the table at the back of the Sanctuary. At that time, you may also light a candle at the table of votives in honor or memory of someone, or for any need.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P Lord of the harvest,

C we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

(The Usher will direct you forward. Should you wish to have us bring Communion to you, let the usher know and remain seated. Pastor has bread and Reader has the tray with the outer circle of cups being wine and inner circles, white grape juice. A gluten-free option is available. Each person takes a cup, then puts the empty cup into the last tray.)

SPECIAL MUSIC “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” **Mark Coldiron**
Arr. Marty Parks

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” ELW #597

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

DISMISSAL & SHARING OF THE PEACE

P Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C Thanks be to God.

P May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share the peace of the Lord with each other as we leave today.

++++
WE LEAVE TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD!

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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NOTES & EVENTS

Thank you, Pastor Jeff! Join us following Service for Fellowship Hour to share coffee and snacks.

SALT Meeting at St. John's 2-4 pm today. All are welcome to meet with other congregations in Sacramento to develop programs for gaining members while providing outreach.

Coming soon, Annual Crabby Silent Auction. Let Laura Christensen know if you have items or ideas for donations. Proceeds benefit Mission Fund and Building Fund.

Saturday, December 6 – Holiday Sale – Baked Goods and Vendors. Proceeds benefit WELCA Outreach Programs.

Church of the Cross will be hosting a **food and essentials drive** for **NorCal Resist** beginning **Reformation Sunday and continuing through December.**

NorCal Resist is a community organization that focuses on supporting immigrant families. Each month **NorCal Resist** hosts a free food and diaper distribution, open to all community members.

NorCal Resist has an ongoing need for these items:

Maseca flour	Salt
Beans	Sugar
Rice	Cereal
Canned goods	Pasta or other non-perishable food items
Diapers, Baby wipes, Feminine hygiene products	

We'll have a collection container in the Social Hall. A NorCal Resist volunteer will pick up all our donations.

Fortunate Feast Holiday Program – Church of the Cross will be gathering toys to supply children of all ages at this community event in December. Look for the Donation Box in the Social Hall. See Jacquie Haney for details!

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Prayers of thanks for Mark and Patricia who were in an auto accident. They are making progress in their healing.

Sonya, Tami Stoddard's sister, who has a very aggressive breast cancer but the surgery was successful.

Lisa Mulz, whose dog Petra had to be put down due to cancer. Continued prayers for Lisa's mom who went on hospice.

Diane and Brittany Walton on the death of Diane's mother.

Deanna Ransom who has vertigo and has had issues with her gall bladder.

Lucas O'Connor, 16-year-old grandson of Joann Ryan, who fell while hiking but is healing well.

Family and friends of Nancy Dugan who passed away. And, husband, Jim, who has dementia.

Blair Bagley, Julie Andrews' friend who is recovering from Chiari 1 Malformation brain surgery.

Chuck Hines, for successful chemo for lung cancer and for continued healing of wounds on his foot.

For Chuck's friend, Ken, who had a fall and is resistant to help at his assisted living home.

Elaine Hussey, friend of Chuck's who is recovering from a leg wound.

May Drobny, who fractured her hip but is recovering at home.

Donya Wiken, who is homebound.

Julie Nemes, in the loss of her dog, Lexy. And, Julie's friend Sharon on the passing of her beloved dog, Princess, who was Lexy's best friend.

Also, for healing of Julie N's broken tooth, which will need replacement.

Julie Nemes' friend Bobbie Henley who is undergoing radiation for metastatic breast cancer. And for friend Danica's husband, Abraham, who is struggling with Parkinson's.

Judy Kaylor, who is in hospice care and for her daughter, Tina Anger, who is in a care facility.

Sue Fossum's sister-in-law, Nancy, who is in hospice. And for Mark, Sue's brother.

Jackie Walters who is suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. Also, Hans, Jackie's husband who has Parkinson's.

Julie Andrews' sister-in-law, Marilyn, who is in a care facility. Also, her sister-in-law, Pat.

The family of Joseph Brito, as he passed away the weekend of Oct. 11.

Paul Santos, Jacquie Haney's brother-in-law hoping to receive a kidney transplant.

Erin Sullivan, Jacquie's friend, prayers for continued healing after beating breast cancer.

Karin Kretz, a member who had eye surgery and is now in assisted living.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
PARTICIPATING & PARTNERING IN OUTREACH

Here is a sample:

- 1) St. John's Program for Real Change – Feeding dinners at Women's & Children's Shelter
- 2) Fortunate Feast – Christmas Event for Families in need
- 3) LSS of Northern California's Program helping transitioning Youth who have aged out of the Foster Care system
- 4) River City Community Services – Food Closet
- 5) Habitat for Humanity
- 6) Rock Point Navajo Reservation - Providing school children w/clothing/toys at Christmas; providing school supplies, more
- 7) "Run to Feed the Hungry" Care Station – supporting Sacramento Food Bank
- 8) Blue Star Moms – Sending "care" packages to our troops

Some projects receive support funding by **Thrivent Financial**
- A Non-Profit Fraternal Benefit Society that returns funds from financial products purchased by members to fund endeavors in the Community.

Other Groups That Use Our Facility:

- 1) Al-Anon
- 2) Women's AA

**Come Join Us in Our Outreach
to Our Community**

Worship For All Ages - Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Pet Friendly – Bring your Dog, Cat, or other Friends
WE ARE AN OPEN and DIVERSE ASSEMBLY
ALL ARE WELCOME !!