

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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November 30, 2025 - First Sunday of Advent



Lutheran Church of the Cross

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to Church of the Cross.
We pray our worship today blesses your life.

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

“I Will Sing of My Redeemer”

Mark Coldiron

Arr. Marty Parks

WELCOME

Jacque Haney

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

L At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

C O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

L We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.

C O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

L We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields.

C O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

L We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant hope within us.

C O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

L Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

C Amen.

Light the first candle.

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW# 257 verse 1

L Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

C You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Long-expected God,

**C we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only
you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the
ways of war.**

We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our
neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

L God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness.

We are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray...

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us
from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of
your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

GUEST SPEAKER

Lori Jablonski, Volunteer, NorCal Resist

First Reading ... Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Psalm 122

(read responsively)

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**
"May they prosper who love you.

⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading ... Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 24:36-44

(Please rise for the Gospel)

Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left.

⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Jacquie Haney

HYMN OF THE DAY “Wake, Awake for Night is Flying ” ELW # 436 (stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

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

L In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

After each petition the Leader will say: God of grace,

*Response: **Hear our prayer.***

L God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

L God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

L God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

L God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation.

Lord, we now turn to the prayer list in our bulletin and read of those we pray for your blessings upon, adding those not listed, we ask aloud or silently...

God of grace,

L God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

L God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

L Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C Amen.

L 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 *You may place your Offering and your Prayer Requests in the Basket at the table in 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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Our Great Savior”

Mark Coldiron

Arr. Jenifer Cook

OFFERING PRAYER

L God of healing and hope,

C you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

BLESSING

L May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

ELW #244 (stand)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C And also with you.

L 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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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we gather today on the ancestral lands of the Miwok and Nisenan peoples who continue to live here today.

May the God of justice and compassion give us courage to become true allies.



NOTES & EVENTS

Continuing through December, Cross will be hosting a **food and essentials drive** for **NorCal Resist**.

NorCal Resist is an 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

Look for the collection container in the Social Hall. Kate Lenox has more details.

November 24 thru December 12 - Annual Crabby Silent Auction Online. Let your friends and family know and share the link. Proceeds benefit Mission Fund and Building Fund.

Saturday, December 6 & 7 – ABC Holiday Sale – Artisans, Baked Goods and Cafe Proceeds benefit WELCA Outreach Programs. Sign-up sheets are on the Kitchen door. Set-up is happening all week. See Jacquie, Janey or Candy for details.

Tuesday, December 9 – Wrap gifts for the Navajo Children’s Christmas. Come when you can to the social hall where everything is laid out.

December 13 – Fortunate Feast, holiday program for less fortunate led by Jacquie Haney. We are collecting toys for Kids ages 12-17. Let her know if you can help in any way that day, too.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Chris and Whitney de Kerguelen on the unexpected death of Chris's mother.

Nelly Quiban, grandma of Heaven and Hunter, and of Harmony and Holden (Douglas Whiteaker's children) who has been diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer.

Prayers for Mark and Patricia who were in another auto accident.

Sonya Tafejian, Tami Stoddard's sister, who is fighting a very aggressive breast cancer after successful surgery.

Lisa Mulz, who lost her dog, Petra, due to cancer. Continued prayers for Lisa's mom who is on hospice.

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

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

Jim Dugan, friend of the congregation, 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.

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.

Melissa, our visitor, who recently lost her companion dog, Captain.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
PARTICIPATING & PARTNERING IN SERVICE

Here is a sample:

- 1) **St. John's Program for Real Change – Preparing & serving dinners at Women's & Children's Shelter**
- 2) **Fortunate Feast – Christmas Event for Families in need**
- 3) **LSS of Northern California's program for 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 supplies, Christmas gifts for children and 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 Service
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 !!**