

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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Facebook - Lutheran Church of the Cross-Sacramento

Web page - www.cotcsac.org

March 29, 2026



Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to Church of the Cross.

We pray our worship today blesses your life.

Lutheran Church of the Cross



ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Time to prepare for worship

WELCOME

Kevin Brown

GATHERING

L The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PALM PROCESSIONAL

L Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

L Let us join together in prayer:

C Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF PALMS

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

L Let us pray...

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

PROCESSION

L Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

L Let us go forth in peace.

C In the name of Christ. Amen.

(All process to the altar steps to lay their palm branch on either side, then are seated in the pews. When All are seated the Opening Hymn is sung.)

OPENING HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ELW 344

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

C Amen.

First Reading ... Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who
are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who
pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to
shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalm 31:9-16

(read responsively)

⁹Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with
sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my
strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay
to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a
broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.

I have said, You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and
from those who persecute me.

**¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in
your steadfast love.**

Second Reading ... Philippians 2:5-11

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.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 21:1-11(Please rise for the Gospel)

Gospel Acclamation

L Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. The Gospel is taken from the book of Matthew, Chapter 21.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Sharon Hermosillo

HYMN OF THE DAY “Where Charity and Love Prevail” ELW 359

APOSTLES’ CREED

L Let us express our faith as found in the words of the 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 Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

After each petition the Leader will say: Hear Us, O God.

*Response: **Your mercy is great.***

L O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

L You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

L Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Watch over those in the midst of war and bring an end to violence. Hear us, O God.

L Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. We pray for your blessings upon those named on our prayer list and those we now name before you aloud or silently... Hear us, O God.

L Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

L O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God.

L Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

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

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.*

OFFERING PRAYER

L O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C **your steadfast love embraces all creation. May we use your gifts to share generously through the one who gave us eternal life and who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING READING

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

L It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let the branches we brought be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bore them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. In the name of Messiah, who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

L Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ELW 338 *(stand)*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY



SHARING OF THE PEACE

L Go in peace. Believe the good news.

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

Douglas Whiteaker, Council President 916-606-8976

Kevin Brown, Church Secretary 916-628-6382

Jacque Haney, Facilities Manager 916-456-8880

Church Email: sacchurchofthecross@gmail.com

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday Service @ St Paul’s at 6:00pm
or St. Luke’s at 7:00pm.

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday Service @ St. Paul’s 12:15pm or Church
of the Cross at 6:30pm.

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Breakfast 9:00-10:30am.

Adults, \$10.00 - 10-3 years old, \$5.00 – under 3 years, free.

Breakfast proceeds to benefit Building & Grounds Fund.

Easter Worship Service 11:00am led by Pastor Virginia Ward.

Spiritual Renewal Sessions– Beginning April 12, each Sunday for 5 weeks at
9:30-10:30am in the Social Hall led by Sharon Hermosillo. Study involves the
book “Crazy in Love” by Pastor Francis Chan.

Voting Member for Synod Assembly Online Business Gathering –

June 13, 9:00am-Noon. Assembly will be online to do the business of the church.

They will hear reports on the various ministries of our Synod and the ELCA.

They will consider resolutions and hold elections.

Online Budget Gathering, TBD In The Fall. See Kevin if you want to be our
representative for both sessions. Your registration is paid by the church.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Deanna Ransom who fell and broke her hip. She is at a rehab facility and would like phone calls. Mark Coldiron with 15 stitches in his hand and Patricia C. with broken ribs and various bruises. The family of Judy Kaylor, longtime member of Cross, who passed away February 11.

Tami, Janey, Kate and Merete who were longtime friends of Pennie Taylor who passed away suddenly of a heart attack. And for Pennie's husband, Howard, and family.

Dee Emmert, our past interim Pastor, and family on the death of her mother, Jacque Emmert.

Charlotte Csontos-Diab, daughter of former Pastor Virginia Ward, who has been diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer and is facing surgery, chemo, and radiation.

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.

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

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

Jim Dugan, friend of the congregation, who has early onset Alzheimer's.

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

Chuck Hines, as he goes through another round of chemotherapy for additional spots of lung cancer, and his friends Elaine Hussey (leg wounds and breathing difficulties); Don Jennings (cardiac stents); Ken Kohler (dementia and in hospice care); Kathy Russell (breathing difficulties due to fungus infection); Ken Smith (permanent injuries leading to disabilities).

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

Donya Wiken, who is homebound.

Julie Nemes' friend Danica and her husband, Abraham, who is struggling with Parkinson's.

Sue Fossum's sister-in-law, Nancy, who is in hospice. And for Mark, Sue's brother. Prayers of thanks for Sue Fossum's sister-in-law Deb's surgery was successful with tumors benign, Sarah had her surgery with a mastectomy and neighbor Jen is continuing ongoing treatments for breast cancer but doing well.

Jackie Walters who is suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, and is facing bladder surgery. 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, recovering from eye surgery.

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

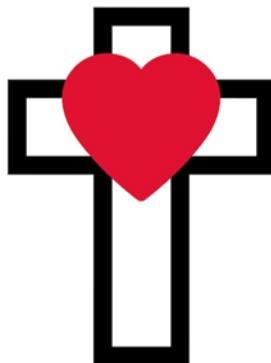
Some projects receive support funding by **Thrivent Financial** - A Non-Profit Fraternal Benefit Society that returns funds from financial products purchased by members to fund endeavors in the Community.

Other Groups That Use Our Facility:

- 1) Al-Anon
- 2) Women's AA
- 3) Food Addicts

**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 !!



MISSION STATEMENT

**Lutheran Church of the Cross
is a welcoming, worshipping people of God.
Through faith in Jesus Christ,
we praise the God of Creation,
Love, and Forgiveness;
encourage Spiritual Growth;
and respond to the Holy Spirit's call to
Compassionate Service in
our Community and World.**