

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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Facebook - Lutheran Church of the Cross-Sacramento

Web page - www.cotcsac.org

April 26, 2026 - 4th Sunday of Easter



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 “Grace Greater than Our Sin”

Arr. R. Christopher Teichler

Mark Coldiron

WELCOME

Kevin Brown

OPENING HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”

ELW 385 (*stand*)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C Amen.

L Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring
waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

L Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our
journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

L Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

L Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels,
giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P 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.

P 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.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray...

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death.

Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Julie Nemes

First Reading ... Acts 2:42-47

⁴² The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalm 23

(read responsively)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Second Reading ... 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer

for it, this is a commendable thing before God.

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... John 10:1-10

(Please rise for the Gospel)

Gospel Acclamation

L Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

**Special Interactive Message from
Pastor Jim Townsend**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Shepherd Me, O God”

ELW 780 *(stand)*

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 Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

After each petition the Leader will say: Merciful God,

Response: receive our prayer.

L Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,

L Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,

L Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,

L Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit.

We pray for your blessings upon those named there and on those we now name before you aloud or silently... Merciful God,

L Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,

L Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,

L God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Shepherd Me, O God”

Mark Coldiron

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.

BLESSING

L God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, bless you always.

C Amen.

CLOSING READING

Julie Nemes

⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: ⁸ As I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord God: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

¹¹ For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹² As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

SENDING HYMN

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

ELW 764

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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

Jacquie Haney, Facilities Manager 916-456-8880

Church Email: sacchurchofthecross@gmail.com

TODAY – Short Fellowship time following Service before the SALT Meeting (Sacramento Area Lutherans Together) today at 1:00pm

New “Bible Study” - Spiritual Renewal Sessions– Beginning 4/12 and continuing each Sunday for 5 weeks at 9:45-10:45am in the Social Hall led by Sharon Hermosillo. Study includes the book “Crazy Love” by Pr. Francis Chan.

Sunday, May 3 – WELCA Meeting following Service to discuss plans for the Yard Sale. Bring snacks to share during the meeting.

Saturday, May 9 – 11:00 am- 2:00pm Mother’s Day Luncheon @ Mama Susanna’s Restaurant. Sign-up sheet on the kitchen door.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Chuck Hines, who had surgery on both feet and will only be able to be with us online for at least 5 weeks.

Deanna Ransom who broke her hip. She is at a rehab facility and would like phone calls.

Mark Coldiron recovering from surgery on his left hand and Patricia C. with broken ribs and various bruises, from their recent accident.

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.

Friends of Chuck Hines; 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.

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**

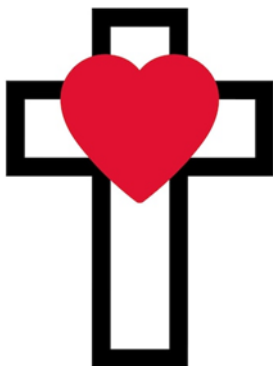
Some projects receive support funding by **Thrivent Financial** - A Non-Profit Fraternal Benefit Society that returns funds from financial products purchased by members to fund endeavors in the Community.

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.**