

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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July 13, 2025 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost



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 **Rev. James Townsend, Presiding**

PRELUDE “Come, All Christians, Be Committed” Mark Coldiron arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME **Pastor Townsend**

GATHERING HYMN “Gather Us In” ELW #532

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,

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Sharon Hermosillo

Old Testament Reading ... Deuteronomy 30:9-14

⁹ The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰ when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ “Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Psalms 25:1-10

(read responsively)

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰ **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Epistle Reading ... Colossians 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... Luke 10:25-37

(Please rise for the Gospel)

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Pastor James Townsend

HYMN OF THE DAY "By Your Hand You Feed Your People" ELW #469

APOSTLES' CREED

(stand)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

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

*Response: **hear our prayer.***

P Saving God, awaken your church to your truth as it follows your path of love. Encourage pastors, deacons, teachers, and seminarians, and lead them as they seek to learn your ways. God of grace,

P Prosper the harvests of fruit-bearing bushes, trees, and plants. Uphold farmers and farm workers as they labor through summer days, and bring relief to lands that are parched with heat. God of grace,

P Instill in leaders of the world a strong love for their neighbors. Compel them to govern with equity and to give aid and protection to people who are vulnerable, especially strangers, migrants, and asylum seekers. God of grace,

P Draw near to people in need of help, comfort, and healing. Reduce our stress from anxieties and everyday concerns. May we find strength in your presence. Provide protection and aid to children who are unsafe and undernourished while on summer break. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart that we name before you aloud or silently..... God of grace,

P Go with all who travel, and protect them from harm. Put in their paths people who offer aid. We pray especially for the safety of first responders, highway workers, and law enforcement. God of grace,

P We give you thanks for all who have gone before us and have made your love known. Help us to follow their witness as we await our share in the inheritance of the saints. God of grace,

P Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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, 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:

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

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

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

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 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

P Blessed are you, Holy One,

C for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

(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 is wine and inner circles are grape juice. A gluten-free option is available. Each person take a cup, then put the empty cup into the last tray.)

SPECIAL MUSIC "Jesus Loves Me" Mark Coldiron arr. David Berry

COMMUNION PRAYER

P Generous God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

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

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

NOTES & EVENTS

Saturday, July 19 at 10:30 am – 12 pm at Community Lutheran (920 Drever St. West Sacramento). Sacramento Lutherans meeting for possibilities of working together. We will begin sharing our history and values with each other and ask what core identity pieces are gifts we bring to this collaboration.

Sunday, July 20 – Outdoor Service with Pastor Virginia Ward presiding. Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – Following Service in the Social Hall. All members need to attend to vote on Quarter 3 budget. Bring snacks to share.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Deanna Ransom who has had 2 episodes of vertigo and has had issues with her gall bladder. She is having in-home care to help her get stronger.

Lucas O'Connor, 16-year-old grandson of Joann Ryan, who fell while hiking. He has broken both feet, a broken wrist, and several compression fractures in his spine. He is home now, with a back brace and walker.

Prayers for the family and friends of Nancy Dugan who passed away. Also for her husband, Jim, who has dementia and their daughter Amanda and family.

Greg deMartine, Kevin's brother-in-law who had surgery to remove his bladder due to cancer. However, he is struggling with several extreme side effects of immunotherapy.

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 the wounds on his foot. And Chuck's friend, Ken, who suffered 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 beloved dog, Lexy, who died unexpectedly.

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 now 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. Prayers for Mark, Nancy's husband and Sue's brother.

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

Julie Andrews' sister-in-law, Marilyn, undergoing chemo and radiation for breast cancer. Also, her sister-in-law, Pat.

Joseph Brito, for healing after brain surgery.

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.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
PARTICIPATING & PARTNERING IN OUTREACH

Here is a sampling:

- 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, Folsom – 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 !!