

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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September 14, 2025 - 14th 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

PRELUDE

Arr. Mark Hayes

“Children’s Medley”

Mark Coldiron

WELCOME

Kevin Brown

GATHERING HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ELW #834

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C Amen.

L Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Merciful and loving God,

C we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Amen.

L Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. We who were lost have been found. In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven!

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray...

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

First Reading ... Exodus 32:7-14

⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Psalm 14

(read responsively)

¹ Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, every deed is vile; there is no one who does any good.

**² The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all,
to see if there is anyone who is wise, who seeks after God.**

³ They have all proved faithless; all alike have turned bad;
there is none who does good; no, not one.

⁴ **Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers
who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon the Lord?**

⁵ See how they tremble with fear,
because God is in the company of the righteous.

⁶ **Your aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted,
but the Lord is their refuge.**

⁷ Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion!
When the Lord restores the fortunes of the people, Jacob will rejoice and
Israel will be glad.

Second Reading ... 1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... Luke 15:1-10

(Please rise for the Gospel)

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus.

² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.'

⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kevin & Logan Brown

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Kevin Brown

HYMN OF THE DAY “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW #779

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

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

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

*Response: **receive our prayer.***

L Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,

L Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

L Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Bring understanding of the ways of others and make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

L Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. Bless those on our prayer list and those who are close to our hearts that we name before you now aloud or silently... God of grace,

L Merciful God, bind us together as a community of service, compassion and love. Strengthen us for the work you have for us to do. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

L Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

L We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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

“I Saw the Cross of Jesus”

Mark Coldiron

Arr. Stan Pethel

OFFERING PRAYER

L 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. Amen.

CLOSING READING

Psalms 51:1-10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

BLESSING

L 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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

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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Jacquie Haney, Facilities Manager 916-456-8880

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NOTES & EVENTS

TODAY – Church Council Meeting by Zoom.

The Queen's High Tea will be on Sept 20 from 11-2:00ish. It will take place at Julie Andrews' abode and all are welcome. See Laura Christensen for details and to reserve your spot. Fundraiser for Cross from the last Silent Action.

Sunday, Sept. 21 – WELCA General Meeting to plan Year-End Projects – Following Service. Bring snacks to share.

Sunday, Sept. 28 – Communion Service led by Pastor Jeff Irwin. Quarterly Congregational Meeting during Fellowship Hour after Service.

The Houseboat Progressive Party will be after Church on Sunday, October 12. This fun time will be in Walnut Grove @ Dagmar's Landing. Co-hosts The Christensens & The Fossums – see them for details and get onboard! Fundraiser from the last Silent Auction.

October 17-19 SPS WELCA Convention at Christ the King Passionist Center, Citrus Heights. Registration now open, see Kevin Brown for details.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Prayers of healing for Mark and Patricia who were in an auto accident. Patricia sustained a fractured sternum and a fractured right ankle. Mark has contusion on the left knee, a cut on his head and an air-bag-caused abrasion on his arm.

Sonya, Tami Stoddard's sister, who has a very aggressive breast cancer and will be having surgery and chemo.

Lisa Mulz, whose dog Petra has inoperable cancer. And for Lisa's mom who went on hospice. Diane and Brittany Walton on the death of Diane's mother on Tuesday, Sept. 2 after a long illness.

Friends and family of Mary Ann Dews, VP of SPS WELCA , who passed away Tuesday, Sept. 2. 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 and uses a walker.

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 Drobný, 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.

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.

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 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 – 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 !!