

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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September 21, 2025 - 15th 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. Tedd Smith

“O Worship the King”

Mark Coldiron

WELCOME

Sharon Munoz Hermosillo

GATHERING HYMN

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW #685

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...

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

First Reading ... Amos 8:4-7

- ⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Psalm 113

(read responsively)

- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
² **Let the name of the Lord be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**
³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the Lord be praised.
⁴ **The Lord is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**
⁵ Who is like the Lord our God,
who sits enthroned on high,
⁶ **but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**
⁷ The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

⁹ The Lord makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Second Reading ... 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... Luke 16:1-13

(Please rise for the Gospel)

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’

He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Sharon Hermosillo

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Let Streams of Living Justice"

ELW #710

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 O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,

L Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,

L Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,

L Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. Bless those on our prayer list and those who we name before you now aloud or silently... God of grace,

L God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

L Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. 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

“Give Me Jesus”

Mark Coldiron

Arr. Sandra Eithun

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

PSALM 79:4-9 (read responsively)

⁴ We have become a reproach to our neighbors,
an object of scorn and derision to those around us.

⁵ **How long will you be angry, O Lord?
Will your fury blaze like fire forever?**

⁶ Pour out your wrath upon the nations who have not known you
and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your name.

⁷ **For they have devoured Jacob
and made his dwelling a ruin.**

⁸ Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to meet us;
for we have been brought very low.

⁹ **Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your name's sake.**

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.

SENDING HYMN

“Rise Up, O Saints of God”

ELW #669

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

Douglas Whiteaker, Council President 916-606-8976

Kevin Brown, Church Secretary 916-628-6382

Jacquie Haney, Facilities Manager 916-456-8880

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NOTES & EVENTS

TODAY – WELCA General Meeting to plan Year-End Projects – Following Service.

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

SATURDAY, October 4 – **AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN** – 59th & Broadway
9:00 am to 10:00am on the corner lawn – Blessing of the Animals Service!

Sunday, October 5 – Outdoor Service in the Backyard 11:00 am. Fellowship following – bring snacks to share!

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 sample:

- 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 !!