

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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Web page - www.cotcsac.org

September 6, 2026 - Creation in Christ Sunday



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

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Mark Coldiron

Arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

Kevin Brown

Happy Birthday sing for September

OPENING HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

ELW 836 (*stand*)

GATHERING

L The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our hope, our heart, our home.
Amen.

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

L Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,

**C we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate
oppression and injustice.**

We are often numb to the pain of the world around us.

**We are resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.**

**Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will.
Amen.**

L All we who are saints and sinners, this good news is for us:
God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving grace of Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
C Amen.

LITANY

L Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power, and so you create the world. We praise you, O God:

C We praise you, O God.

L For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life, for the earth ordered from chaos, and for light and dark, we bless you, O God:

C We bless you, O God.

L For the cosmos beyond our earth, for the sky above our heads, and for the cycle of evening and morning, we exalt you, O God:

C We exalt you, O God.

L For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers, for the land with its mountains and plains, and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits, we magnify you, O God:

C We magnify you, O God.

L For the sun to rule the day, for the moon to brighten the night, and for the shining stars, we extol you, O God:

C We extol you, O God.

L For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air, and for the monsters in the deep, we glorify you, O God:

C We glorify you, O God.

L For wild animals and creatures of all kinds, for cattle and all livestock, and for everything that creeps on the earth, we adore you, O God:

C We adore you, O God.

L For humankind made in your image, for setting us on your good earth, and for providing us food to eat, we worship you, O God:

C We worship you, O God.

L Bless us, your creatures. Accept our praise, and make us worthy of your marvelous creation. We praise you, O God:

C We praise you, O God.

L Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray...

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jacquie Haney

First Reading ... Genesis 2:4-25

^{4b} In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, ¹² and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.

¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

PSALM 148

(read responsively)

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**⁴ Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,

**⁶ who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

**⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

**¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**¹² young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**¹⁴ The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are
near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading ... Acts 17:22a, 24-28

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,

²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... John 1:1-5

(Please rise for the Gospel)

Gospel Acclamation

L Alleluia. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. Alleluia. The holy gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Kevin Brown

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, God, beyond All Praising”

ELW 880 (*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 We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words **“Your mercy is great.”**

L O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life and ground of our being:

L For the earth we pray that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plentiful and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, our creator and gracious provider:

L For the nations we pray that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold and sun of justice:

L For our country we pray that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit the whole population, and that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian and rainbow of promise:

L For those in need we pray that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you aloud or silently....

Hear us, O God, our healer and heart of the universe:

L We praise you for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end:

L Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 *Place your Offering and your Prayer Requests in the Basket at the table at 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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" **Mark Coldiron**
Arr. Darcy Stanley

OFFERING PRAYER

L O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

L Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy. Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

C Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

CLOSING PRAYER

L God of mystery, you made the universe with its marvelous order and chaos, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures. We give you thanks for all who study the mysteries of creation and ask that their work may increase our curiosity, wonder, and joy, that we may come to know you more truly and serve you more humbly; in the name of Jesus Christ, your Wisdom and your Word.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

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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- Kevin Brown, Church Secretary916-628-6382
- Jacquie Haney, Facilities Manager916-456-8880
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NOTES & EVENTS:

September Birthdays – Sue Fossum 9/11, Brittany Walton 9/12, Chuck Hines 9/16

Today: Join us for Fellowship Sunday following Service! We will have a meal of the good food which our Lord has blessed us with. Bring something you “created” to share with everyone!

Raza y Rolas Art Fight Fundraiser for NorCal Resist
Saturday, September 19, 2026 at Latino Center for Arts and Culture
2700 Front St, Sacramento, 95818. For Info: tinyurl.com/NCRArtFight2026.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Sue Fossum's brother Mike and his wife Deb, request strength, comfort, and peace as Deb is now in hospice. Also, other sister-in-law, Nancy, who is in hospice and her husband Mark.

Charlotte Csontos-Diab, daughter of former Pastor Virginia Ward, who had a mastectomy for her aggressive breast cancer. She is on radiation now but after a compression fracture of her spine, they are praying it's not from metastasis.

Former member, Bob Fox, who passed away recently and his wife Trudy and their family.

Lisa Mulz, whose mother passed away the week of May 18 after a long illness.

Jacquie Haney whose half-brother passed away on June 26. Hannah Haney, 36 yrs. old, Jacquie's sister, was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. Prayers requested for her surgery, and quick healing, and for her 3 children. Paul Santos, Jacquie Haney's brother-in-law hoping to receive a kidney transplant. Also, Erin Sullivan, Jacquie's friend, prayers for continued healing after beating breast cancer.

Julie Andrews' sister-in-law, Marilyn, who passed away recently. Also, her sister-in-law, Pat. And Blair Bagley, Julie Andrews' friend who's recovering from Chiari 1 brain surgery.

May Drobny, who is back home from the rehab facility after suffering another fall.

Chuck Hines, who had surgery on both feet and is living with his sister temporarily. He's receiving home health care and physical therapy and is making good progress.

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

Mark Coldiron home and recovered from surgery but still has a blood clot in his left leg and Patricia who has been diagnosed with severe left convex scoliosis (curvature of the spine to the left), and still recovering from various traffic accident injuries.

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.

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.

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

Friends of Chuck Hines; Elaine Hussey who is now under Hospice care; friends and family of Kenneth Kohler who died in February, Chuck's college roommate Bob Russell whose wife Kathie passed away in June, and Ken Smith with various permanent injuries.

Julie Nemes' friend Danica and her husband, Abraham, who is struggling with Parkinson's. Comfort those grieving for the affected animals, families seeking answers in the animal killings in Humboldt. Also, her friend Gail Patrice with complications from a broken neck, caused in a fall.

Jackie Walters who is suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, and is facing bladder surgery. Also, Hans, Jackie's husband who has Parkinson's.

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

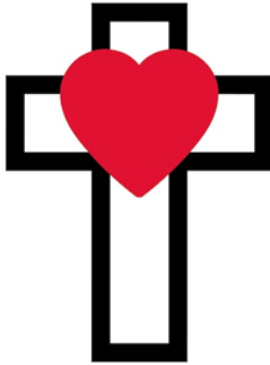
Some projects receive support funding by **Thrivent Financial**
- A Non-Profit Fraternal Benefit Society that returns funds from financial products purchased by members to fund endeavors in the Community.

Other Groups That Use Our Facility:

- 1) Al-Anon
- 2) Women's AA

**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.**