

# *Lutheran Church of the Cross*



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*July 26, 2026 - 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*



**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

### WELCOME

Sharon Hermosillo

### OPENING HYMN

"Gather Us In"

ELW 532

### 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,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**C Amen.**

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L Compassionate God,

**C we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and  
we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you.**

**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

**Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray.**

**Amen.**

L Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven.

We rest in God's love.

**C Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L Let us pray...

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**Laura Christensen**

### **First Reading ... 1 Kings 3:5-12**

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup> And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

### **PSALM 119:129-136**

*(read responsively)*

<sup>129</sup> Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

<sup>130</sup> **When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup> Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

### **Second Reading ... Romans 8:26-39**

<sup>26</sup> The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

<sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading ... Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52** (Please rise for the Gospel)

### **Gospel Acclamation**

L Alleluia. Many will come from east and west and will eat in the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia. The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;

<sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

**Sharon Hermosillo**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW 793 (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 God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

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

L God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way.

God of grace,

L God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

L God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,

L God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to health care and bring recognition to all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. Give comfort to those who face death and those who mourn.

We pray for your blessings upon those on our prayer list and those we name before you aloud or silently... God of grace,

L God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,

L God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, the part we play in providing assistance for our neighbors, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,

L Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

**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** *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.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

L Merciful God,

**C we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. 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, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**            “God of Grace and God of Glory”            ELW 705

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**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.

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## **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](mailto:sacchurchofthecross@gmail.com)**

### **NOTES & EVENTS:**

Sunday, August 9 – Yene Wolteji, founder and ED of Bridging Initiatives International will give the Message and Janey Ranlett will lead the worship Service. We will be taking a special offering in addition to our regular offering.

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Gayle Knowles-Hale, Kevin's sister who had surgery for broken bones in her foot.

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

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

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

Mark Coldiron who was hospitalized this week for surgery on an infection in his foot and Patricia who has been diagnosed with severe left convex scoliosis (curvature of the spine to the left).

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.

Charlotte Csonotos-Diab, daughter of former Pastor Virginia Ward, who has had a mastectomy for her aggressive breast cancer.

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.

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.

Donya Wiken, who is homebound.

Julie Nemes' friend Danica and her husband, Abraham, who is struggling with Parkinson's. And, with news of animal killings in Humboldt County, comfort those grieving for the affected animals, families seeking answers and members of the animal welfare community in CA. Also, her friend, Gail Patrice broke her neck from a fall in her home. There have been complications.

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.

**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

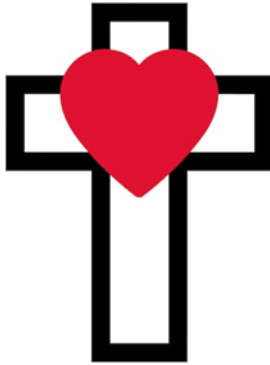
Some projects receive support funding by **Thrivent Financial**  
- A Non-Profit Fraternal Benefit Society that returns funds from financial products purchased by members to fund endeavors in the Community.

**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.**