DESERT CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH
SHARING · LOVING · SERVING

PENTECOST 24
November 7-8, 2026
Sat 5pm/Sunday 9:30am Tempe/Live Stream/Gilbert
Order of Worship

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE:

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We invite veterans to please stand as you are able for a blessing.

BLESSING FOR VETERANS: (Ecclesiastes 3)
For everything there is a season.
A time for war and a time for peace.
A time for every activity under heaven.

For a season of life you sacrificed for the sake of others to serve our country.
We give thanks to God for your season of service and for your life in Christ among us today. May Almighty God bless you with faith, hope, and love all your days,
in the name of the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Please stand with our veterans as you are able.

VETERANS' DAY PRAYER:
Lord God, Almighty Father,
we thank you for all those who have served in the military,
putting their lives in danger for our freedom.
Give veterans and active service members courage, hope and strength.
May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love,
and compassionate healing.
To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever.
Amen.

GREETING:
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God +,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GATHERING SONG: ELW 887 This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2 My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.

So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st. 3
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: ELW 575 Jesus Loves Me! *(Sunday Tempe/Gilbert)*

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Sat 5pm Tempe: ***NO*** *Children's Message*
Sunday Tempe & Gilbert: *Sing at all services*

Refrain
Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

GILBERT SPECIAL MUSIC: Come Let Us Worship God, Jr. Choir

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 70 *(responsively)*

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

PENTECOST GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Come Holy Spirit

Refrain
Alleluia, come Holy Spirit, come,
Alleluia, we're gathered around Your throne.

Speak to Your people, ignite us with flame,
Fill us with power to speak of Your name.
Alleluia, our hearts are now Your home.

© Text & Music: Joni Van Rossum, 2025

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.

[11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:	
"Hit the Road" Pastor Andrea Cain *(Gilbert)*	*"Foolish Bridesmaid Material"* Pastor Thaddeus Book *(Sat. 5pm/Sunday Tempe)*

SONG OF THE DAY: Even So Come

Verse 1
All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Verse 2
Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus 1
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Verse 3
There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

Bridge 1
So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon

So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon

Chorus 2
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Bridge 2
God we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
(REPEAT)

God we wait we wait for You
Yes we wait You're coming soon

Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jess Cates
CCLI Song #7036288
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APOSTLES' CREED:

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 to the dead.
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:

God of steadfast love, help us as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Connect your church across every boundary in the love of Christ. Inspire us to proclaim your saving help, and to stand with people who are poor, oppressed, or forgotten.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of peace, draw nations and communities away from violence and toward one another. Give world and community leaders wisdom to pursue your peace.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Healing Savior, connect those who suffer with companions, caregivers, and communities of support. Bring healing and wholeness to all who are suffering with illness or despair (especially). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Faithful God, we remember with gratitude the saints who sought you and now rest in your eternal care. Let their witness join our lives to the hope of your coming kingdom, and comfort all who mourn with your abiding love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and unite us in the love of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer.
Amen.

PEACE:
May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We share a word of peace with our neighbors.

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:
The grace of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

The Hunger Jar is a love offering and is designated for ELCA World Hunger.

You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at www.desertcross.org with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel

OFFERING SONG: Undivided

Verse 1
Undivided purified
Clean my hands as I lift them high
Consecrated set apart
Refine me and create a clean heart
Chorus
Teach me Your ways
Open my eyes
Show me Your glory
Make me like Christ
Come burn away
What's taken Your place
There's nothing I'm hiding
Here's my heart undivided

Verse 2
You create me sanctify me
You walk me through the fire and try me
You sustain me and remake me
Now all I really want is to be holy

Anna Byrd, John Marc Kohl, Natalie Layne Merrill
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OFFERING PRAYER:
God of abundant grace,
you gather us into one body and connect us in the love of Christ.
Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude,
and join them with the gifts of others to strengthen community,
serve our neighbors, and share your hope throughout the world.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

CONFESSION:
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who draws us near, joins us in grace, and makes us one in Christ.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess the ways we have broken connection with God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we confess that we turn inward and pull away from you.
We overlook our neighbors and allow division to separate us.
Forgive us, reconnect us in your love, and lead us in the way of Christ.

FORGIVENESS:
Hear the good news: God's mercy reaches across every distance.
In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. +
By the Holy Spirit, you are restored to God,
connected to one another, and sent to share Christ's love.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

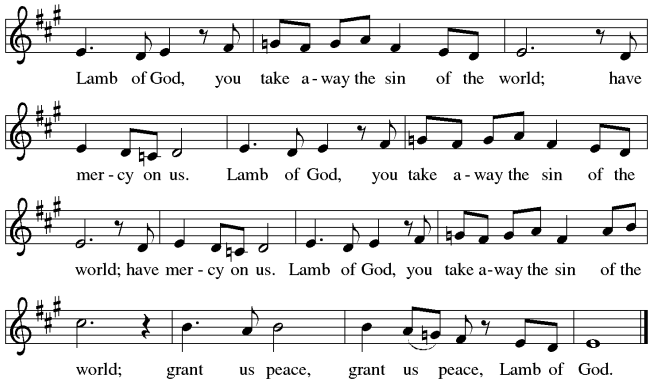
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
LORD'S PRAYER:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:
This is Christ's table. There is a place for you.
All are welcome**.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. All are welcome.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW p.191 - Lamb of God (Setting 8)



DISTRIBUTION SONG 1: No Longer Slaves

Verse 1
You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone

Chorus
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

Verse 2
From my Mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins

Bridge
You split the sea so I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me so I could stand and sing
I am a child of God

Brian Johnson, Joel Case, Jonathan David Helser
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DISTRIBUTION SONG 2: Behold the Lamb (Communion Hymn)

Verse 1
Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

Verse 2
The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
Torn for you eat and remember
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King

Verse 3
The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King

Verse 4
And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

God of grace,
at this table you have fed us with the grace of Christ and joined us as one body.
Send us out strengthened by your love, ready to build connections
and serve all who hunger for hope and belonging.
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor +
And give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 677 This Little Light of Mine

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Thank you for supporting the Desert Cross mission. Here are the ways you can donate today:		
ONLINE GIVING: Get your smart phone and scan the QR-code with your phone camera	**SECURE TEXT GIVING:** Text "GIVE" to 833-636-1502	**USPS:** 8600 S. McClintock Drive Tempe, AZ 85284

Flower Donation:

The flowers on the altar in Tempe this weekend are given by Lola Peterson in thanksgiving and gratitude for family and friends.

The white carnation is in remembrance of Angela Borchers' mother, Therese Arnette.