



Eighth Sunday After Trinity

**July 26, 2026
10:00AM**

WELCOME, FRIENDS AND GUESTS!

WELCOME! A cordial welcome is extended to all who have come to worship with us today. May God's loving presence fill us with joy and hope as we prepare ourselves to follow Christ. If you are a guest or visitor with us, please be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Swenson and sign our guest book. We look forward to having you worship with us again.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Preacher & Liturgist	<i>Board of Elders</i>
Organist	<i>Amy Kao</i>
Lectors	<i>Alex & Lucy Lew</i>
Ushers	<i>Tom Wedergren, Steve Wood, Alex Lew</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Darlene Hartman, Ernestine Gutter, Rhonda Short, Angie Holt, Rebecca Chan</i>

Beware of False Prophets

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matt. 7:15). Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord (Jer. 23:16–29). They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. *“You will recognize them by their fruits”* (Matt. 7:20). The *“fruits”* of a true prophet are not outward righteousness or success but faithfulness in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. This is the will of the Father in heaven, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father’s adopted ones (Rom. 8:12–17), warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:27–38). For indeed, the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit—namely, the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

PRAYER AND PREACHING
Lutheran Service Book, page 260

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Stand

OPENING HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

LSB 585

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide.
O let Your Word, that saving light,
Shine forth undimmed into the night.
- 2 In these last days of great distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That we keep pure till life is spent
Your holy Word and Sacrament.
- 3 To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold
Speak tongues of fire and make us bold
To shine Your Word of saving grace
Into each dark and loveless place.
- 4 May glorious truths that we have heard,
The bright sword of Your mighty Word,
Spurn Satan that Your Church be strong,
Bold, unified in act and song.
- 5 Restrain, O Lord, the human pride
That seeks to thrust Your truth aside
Or with some man-made thoughts or things
Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.
- 6 Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;
Preserve our faith our whole life through—
Your Word alone our heart's defense,
The Church's glorious confidence.

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OPENING VERSICLES

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C Teach me Your paths.
L Sanctify us in Your truth.
C Your Word is truth.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

LSB 261

Refrain

C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that

day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up-on His name,
make known His deeds a-mong the peo-ples, pro -
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will
be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sit

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 23:16-29

L A reading from Jeremiah, the twenty-third chapter.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

¹⁸For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD
to see and to hear his word,
or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

¹⁹Behold, the storm of the LORD!
Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back
until he has executed and accomplished
the intents of his heart.

In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

²¹“I did not send the prophets,
yet they ran;
I did not speak to them,
yet they prophesied.

²²But if they had stood in my council,
then they would have proclaimed my words to my people,
and they would have turned them from their evil way,
and from the evil of their deeds.

²³“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name,

saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Acts 20:27-38

L A reading from Acts, the twentieth chapter.

²⁷[Paul said:] “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

³⁶And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 7:15-23

L A reading from St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Stand

TEN COMMANDMENTS

- C** You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

APOSTLES' CREED

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
- And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and
the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

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.**

Sit

SERMON HYMN

In God, My Faithful God

LSB 745

- 1 In God, my faithful God,
I trust when dark my road;
Great woes may overtake me,
Yet He will not forsake me.
My troubles He can alter;
His hand lets nothing falter.
- 2 My sins fill me with care,
Yet I will not despair.
I build on Christ, who loves me;
From this rock nothing moves me.
To Him I will surrender,
To Him, my soul's defender.
- 3 If death my portion be,
It brings great gain to me;
It speeds my life's endeavor
To live with Christ forever.
He gives me joy in sorrow,
Come death now or tomorrow.

4 O Jesus Christ, my Lord,
So meek in deed and word,
You suffered death to save us
Because Your love would have us
Be heirs of heav'nly gladness
When ends this life of sadness.

5 "So be it," then, I say
With all my heart each day.
Dear Lord, we all adore You,
We sing for joy before You.
Guide us while here we wander
Until we praise You yonder.

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SERMON "Test the Spirits"
Text: Matthew 7:15-23

TITHES AND OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

CHOIR *At the Table of the Lord*

Stand

PRAYER

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

L Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

LSB 266

Refrain

C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.

Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.

Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.

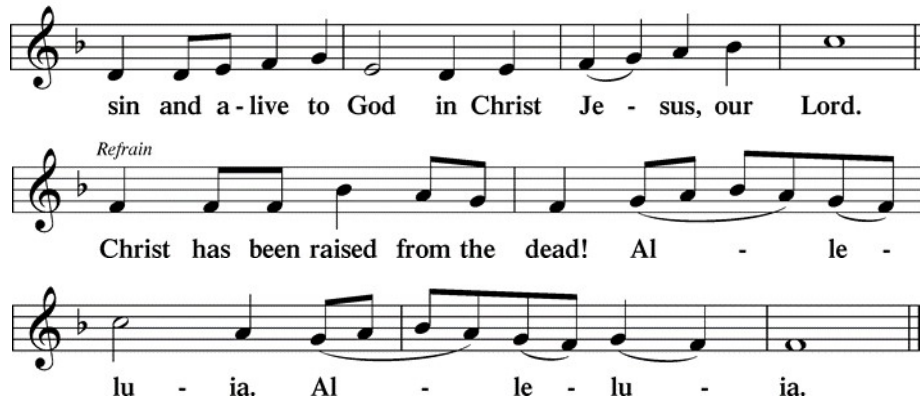
Refrain

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He

lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to



COLLECT FOR THE WORD

- [L]** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- [C]** Amen.

MORNING PRAYER

- [C]** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
- Amen.

BLESSING

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son,
and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Preserve Your Word, O Savior

LSB 658

- 1 Preserve Your Word, O Savior,
To us this latter day,
And let Your kingdom flourish;
Enlarge Your Church, we pray.
O keep our faith from failing;
Keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let nothing from truth turn us
While living here below.
- 2 Preserve, O Lord, Your honor,
The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten
The souls in error's night.
Reveal Your will, dear Savior,
To all who dwell below,
Great light of all the living,
That all Your name may know.
- 3 Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion,
Bought dearly with Your blood;
Protect what You have chosen
Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender
When dangers gather round;
When all the earth is crumbling,
Safe may Your Church be found.
- 4 Preserve Your Word and preaching,
The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Your glory,
The pow'r that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water,

This dew of heav'nly grace,
Sustain us while here living
Until we see Your face.

- 5 Preserve in wave and tempest
Your storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather,
May it endure each shock.
Stand at the helm, our pilot,
And set the course aright;
Then we will reach the harbor
In Your eternal light.

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Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book
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Your tithes and offerings support the mission and ministries of West Portal Lutheran Church. If you wish to make an online donation, please use the QR code below. PayPal covers all transaction fees. You are donating to PayPal Giving Fund, a 501C(3) charity. Your donation is tax-deductible.





May 26, 2026

Dear West Portal Lutheran,

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your recent donation of material goods. Your kindness and willingness to support our mission truly makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the women we serve. The **diapers, wipes, hand-made quilts, and financial donation** you provided will go directly toward helping women and families in need, offering both practical assistance and a sense of hope and dignity.

We are deeply appreciative of your partnership and support. It is through contributions like yours that we are able to offer life-giving options to the women we serve. We are truly thankful to count West Portal Lutheran among our valued supporters!

With great gratitude,

The Staff and Board of Alpha Pregnancy Center

5070 Mission Street San Francisco, CA. 94112 | www.alphapc.org | info@alphapc.org | 415.584.6800

PARISH EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**Wednesday Morning Bible Study
In-Person and On-Line**

Pastor Swenson is leading an in-person and on-line Bible Study on Wednesday mornings, starting at 11:00AM in the church library. If you would be interested in joining the class on-line, please contact Pastor Swenson, pastorswenson@wplsfc.com so that he can provide you with the link for joining the class.

Sundays, 9:00AM

Bible Study - Led by Pastor Swenson at 9:00 AM in the Church Parish Hall. **There is no Bible Class this morning as Pastor is away.**

Monday Membership Class, 6:00PM

Pastor Swenson is leading a new member/Catechism refresher course on Monday evenings, 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the church library. The class is especially directed toward those who desire membership in our congregation, but we also welcome those who have gone a while without considering the Catechism in detail.

Children Sunday School - Led by Edward & Rebecca Chan at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Library.

ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX:

- *Portals of Prayer* for July - September
- Latest issue of PortaLight
- Current issue of the *Lutheran Witness*
- Bulletin for today—regular size print and large size print

Please help yourself to any or all of the above listed items.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available. If you know of someone who could use one, please ask an usher for a large print bulletin—the order of service, words to the hymns, and the announcements are printed in these bulletins.

ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES are now available for your use during the Worship Service. If you would like to use one of these hearing devices, please see an Usher to check one out! There are two choices for the earpiece: an Ear-Bud or an Ear-Cuff. Following the Service PLEASE return the Hearing Aid to the ushers.

Our Stewardship of Worship Last Week

Saturday, 5:00PM Service
 In Person 16
 Sunday, 10:00AM Service
 In Person 65
 On-Line 52
Total 133

Communed Saturday 14
 Communed Sunday 51

Sunday Bible Classes 8

CALENDAR

THIS WEEK:

SUNDAY (7/26) Pastor is away.

9:00AM No Adult Bible Class

10:00AM Worship

11:15AM Choir Practice

MONDAY (7/27)

6:00PM Membership Class

WEDNESDAY (7/29)

11:00AM Midweek Bible Class in person
and on-line

SATURDAY (8/1)

10:00AM Quilt Class

5:00PM Worship-Lord's Supper

NEXT WEEK:

SUNDAY (8/2)

9:00AM Adult Bible Class

10:00AM Worship

11:15AM Elders Meeting

11:15AM Choir Practice

MONDAY (8/3)

6:00PM Membership Class

WEDNESDAY (8/5)

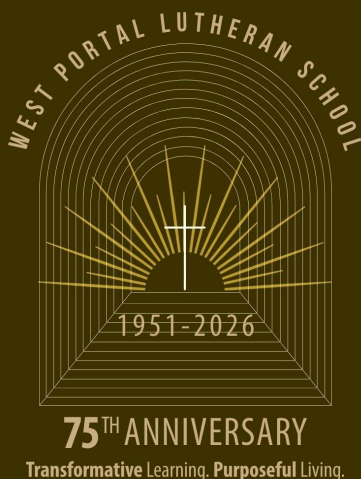
11:00AM Midweek Bible Class in person
and on-line

SATURDAY (8/8)

5:00PM Worship-Lord's Supper



LET US PRAY TO THE LORD GOD for those who are ill, homebound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Charlene Bruggemann-Wong; Vivian Char; Angie Cheung, Helen Bok's sister-in-law; Wilson Cheung, Helen Bok's brother; Bill Eves, Virginia Ferry's cousin; Virginia Ferry; Mary Jo Fischl; Jimmy Fong, Evelyn Fong's father; Ray Holstead; Ping-Yee Law; Gilbert Mogyorossy; Bennette Nulph; Sigrid Rogge; Ruth Stresow; Ray & Dianne Toloski; Elise Wen, Patrick Man's friend; Cheryl Wong; Marilyn Wong.



You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating a momentous occasion: West Portal Lutheran School's 75th Anniversary on September 26, 2026! This is an open-house event featuring a look back at God's faithfulness at our school with savory and sweet bites starting at 1:30 pm followed by a special worship service at 5:00 pm. **Please register by September 5th.** Entry is **FREE** of charge, but if you would like to make a donation, please enter an amount on your registration.

<https://www.wplsf.com/anniversary>

Please reach out to: Antonella Demartini (speedyantonnella@yahoo.com) with any questions. We very much hope to see you there!

Altar Flowers

Flower Charts for the year 2026 are now posted in the Narthex. This is a very special way to help decorate the Altar, and to commemorate events or to remember loved ones. Flowers may be taken home or are delivered to our sick and shut-in members. Please call May Luu or Angie Holt in the church office, 415-661-0242, if you have any questions. The cost of a floral arrangement is \$70.00. Please make your check payable to “Altar Guild of West Portal Lutheran Church”. We encourage you to sign up on the new Flower Chart.

Jeremiah 23:17 – “They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’” Jeremiah’s day sounds a lot like our own, with self-appointed prophets in the popular media telling people exactly what they want to hear. But preachers of the true Word of the Lord do us the sometimes-difficult favor of telling us *what is actually true. And that often challenges us, shows us our sins and calls us to repentance.*

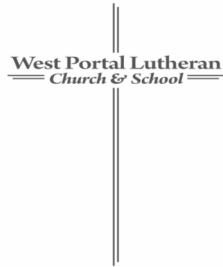


The Altar Guild is seeking new members to help with our essential ministry of preparing the church for worship. This is a quiet, behind-the-scenes way to contribute to the beauty and reverence of our services, and we are currently in need of more dedicated members to help with our important work.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can serve, please contact Rebecca Chan at 317-508-3901.

Thank you for considering this vital ministry.

In Christ,
The Altar Guild



Worship Services

Saturday, 5:00PM
Sunday, 10:00AM

Bible Classes

Monday, 6:00PM
Wednesday, 11:00AM
Sunday, 9:00AM

CHURCH

200 Sloat Boulevard
San Francisco CA 94132
415-661-0242
www.
westportallutheran.org

SCHOOL

Sloat Campus
200 Sloat Boulevard
San Francisco CA 94132
415-665-6330

Sunset Campus
3101 Moraga Street
San Francisco CA 94122
415-731-3000
www.wplsfc.com

Rev. Jacob Swenson,
Associate Pastor

Ms. Sherise Lee,
Principal

Mrs. Sherilyn Jew,
*Assistant to the Principal-
Teaching, Learning, Curriculum*

Ms. Amy Kao
Music Director

7/26/26
10:00AM