



They Prepare a Way
Simeon: *Mine eyes have seen the Glory*

Advent 3
Sunday, December 15, 2019
FULL SCRIPT



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

623-224-8839

www.crossofglory.org
Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor
Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor



Jomax Campus
10111 W Jomax Road,
Peoria, AZ 85383
Sat. 6pm and Sun. 9am Worship

Vistancia Campus
Lake Pleasant Elementary School
31501 N. Westland Road
Peoria, AZ 85383
Sun. 9:30am Worship

Welcome to our Worship Center! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Families with children:

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby .
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult guardian.
- We invite children (*ages 3 to 4th grade*) to take part in our “**Children in Church**” program. Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. So, for the beginning and end of the service, we encourage parents to guide their children through the service. At the indicated time, children can come forward to hear a special children’s message at the feet of the pastor. If parents wish, the children can then sit in the area set up for them at the front-right section of the worship hall, where they will find age-appropriate and spiritually focused activities to work on during the regular sermon. At the time of the offering, children return to sit with their parents. Let’s work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

Special needs:

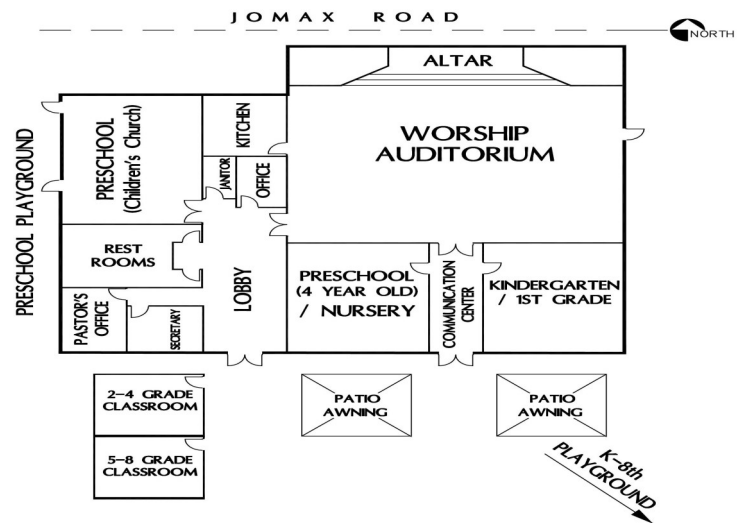
- Large print bulletin available from usher
- Seats with armrests available



The Season of Advent is historically a time of anticipation and waiting. Typically, we look at this waiting from three distinct vantage points:

1. God's Old Testament people waiting for the birth of the Savior,
2. Christians today waiting for the celebration of Christmas,
3. Christians waiting for the Lord's return on the Last Day.

In every case, God's people were encouraged to wait with expectation and to prepare for the coming of the Lord through repentance and faith. These services are intended to help God's people prepare for the Lord's coming — to Bethlehem, to our hearts, and at the end of the world. The services center on Jesus, the Coming One, and make extensive use of the hymn, "**Oh Come, Oh come, Emmanuel.**" This hymn was originally based on the seven so-called "O" Antiphons used in the liturgy of the church during the Advent season. (Each one begins with the word "O"). These Antiphons (congregational responses), dating from before the ninth century, are sentences addressed to the Savior. They reflect a joyful anticipation of his Advent or "coming." We use them here in conjunction with the lighting of the candles in the Advent wreath and hope they will serve to make this truly a season of anticipation and expectation for you. The journey from Advent to Bethlehem is never an easy one in our day. We are distracted by so many other things that have come to be associated with this time before Christmas. It's a time filled with noise and commercialization, and some you will meet along the way aren't really interested in Bethlehem at all. May these services help to center our attention on our coming Savior and strengthen our faith in him.



O Come Lord Jesus—An Advent Service

OPENING HYMN

Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You (CW19) 4 Vs.

O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, My Hope, my heart's Delight.
O Jesus, let your word be A lamp to light my way,
To show me how to please you, To guide me ev'ry day.
Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling That led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race!
Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed And tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, He's standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.
Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing A heritage in heav'n.

INVOCATION

(Spoken Responsively; Sung Response CW23)

M: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Give glory to the coming King!

C: Oh, come, let us worship him!

M: Behold, He who was to come has come.

C: We welcome him with thankful hearts.

M: Behold, He who has come is coming again.

C: We wait for him with fervent faith.

M: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: "Come, Lord Jesus."

M: All who await his appearance pray:

C: "Come, Lord Jesus."

M: The whole creation pleads:

C: "Come, Lord Jesus."

All: *(Sung)* Oh come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

(Lighting the Bethlehem Candle)

M: O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open:

C: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and in the shadow of death.

All: *(Sung)* O come, O Root of Jesse, free, Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them victory over the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

C: O almighty, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But my heart is deeply grieved over them and I sincerely repent of them; and I pray you in your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

M: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and acting in his behalf and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE OF PROPHECY

Ezekiel 34:11-16

“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

(Spoken Responsively)

**C: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughters of Jerusalem!
See, your King comes to you, Righteous and having salvation.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you. (Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26)**

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)

THE SCRIPTURE OF ANTICIPATION

John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

(Spoken Responsively)

**C: Alleluia! I will send my messenger ahead of you
Who will prepare your way before you. (Matthew 11:10)**

SERMON HYMN

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus
(CW6—Sung to Melody CW492) 2 V.s.

**Come, O long-expected Jesus, Born to set your people free;
From our sins and fears release us By your death on Calvary.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope to all the earth impart,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
Born your people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, Now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all-sufficient merit Raise us to your glorious throne.**

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” ³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

APOSTLES’ CREED*(Spoken in Unison)*

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER*(Spoken by Minister)***THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH***(Spoken by Minister)***LORD’S PRAYER***(Spoken by Congregation)*

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Sung by Congregation—CW23)

All: *(Sung)* Amen, that is, so shall it be, Confirm our faith and hope in Thee,
That we may doubt not, but believe What here we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Thy name and at Thy Word We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!

THE DISMISSAL

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Behold, He who was to come has come.

C: We welcome him with thankful hearts.

M: Behold, He who has come is coming again.

C: We wait for him with fervent faith.

M: He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon'

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

M: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Peace Came to Earth (CWS707) 3 Vs.

Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed his might
Who could but gasp: Immanuel! Who could but sing: Immanuel!
You show the Father none has ever seen,
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine you visit us again
Who could but see: Immanuel! Who could but thrill Immanuel!
How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel who could but praise Immanuel!

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Announcements

****January 8-12th we have 7 collage students and one chaparone coming here with WELS Mission Journeys from Fond Du Lac WI. We are looking for host families while they are here. If you are able to open your home for a few please contact Pastor Ehlers.

****Our member/ visitor cards have had a remake and are now located in the entry for those not able to sign-in on the computers.

****At our call meeting on December 1st, the congregation called Jared Christiansen to be our new principal. He currently serves at St. Paul Lutheran School in St. James, Minnesota. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he considers where he can best use his gifts in the Lord's kingdom.

****If you're interested in partnering with us to help the needy this Christmas, consider bringing some new socks to the office. We are organizing a **sock drive** to provide some much-needed warmth for Native Americans living on the Fort Apache Reservation. Thank you for helping us clothe those who are in need!

****There will be a sign-up sheet at Vistancia for Worship Volunteers for December and January. Areas for include refreshments, trailer hauling, set-up, take-down, sound management and playing piano. If you are interested in serving please sign up or contact Liz for available dates.

****A man finds Jesus after losing his sight. A girl finds peace by drumming a tympani. A sinner finds health with terminal leukemia. Those stories and more are featured in the upcoming issue of *His Hands*, an e-newsletter from WELS Special Ministries. To get it delivered to your inbox, go to wels.net/subscribe. You can also peruse previous issues at csm.welsrc.net.

****C19 PROMO FOR CONGREGATIONAL BULLETINS OR NEWSLETTERS

Be Part of C19

One million souls. That is the goal. To share the gospel with one million souls prior to and on Christmas Eve. That goal is part of WELS Congregational Services' C19 program. The only way to achieve that goal is for all WELS members, young and old, to embrace the privilege and responsibility of sharing Christ with unchurched friends, relatives, and neighbors. A simple way to do that—invite them to come with your family to your congregation's Christmas Eve worship service. A recent survey found that 80% of unchurched adults would seriously consider accepting an invitation, extended by a friend, to attend a Christmas Eve service. C19 seeks to encourage every member of our WELS family to do just that. For more information, go to welscongregationservices.net/c19.

****Meditations for Prison Ministry--Please put your used Meditations in the box in the entry way. Meditations are sent to the WELS Prison Ministry quarterly and then distributed to prisoners. Questions? Contact Lynn Wempner

****Please join COG Golden Agers for brunch and fellowship on Thursday, January 2nd, 2019. Held at The Five and Diner Delux, 11340 W Bell Road, #125, Surprise, Az. Please RSVP to Judy Sasse, email or phone, sasseja43@aol.com or 602-618-6967.

******The New Church Directories** are located in the back of church. Thank you everyone who verified your information.

Jomax

Jomax Worship Volunteers	December 15th	December 22nd	December 29th
Refreshments	Sheri Garver/ Margaret Walker/ Cristy Meringer	Rachel Plituweit/ Maria Kelly	Laurel Bollmeier/ Connie Sauer
Greeters	Karin Hansen	-	Bollmeier
Counters	Sasse/Brooks	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner Voigt
Church Cleaners	Koutia/Kugler	Sauer/Kelly	Moe/ James
Communion Set-Up	-	-	
Ushers	Gray Jeffers/ Grant Stern/ John Wempner/ Kelly Simpson	Chris Patterson/ Cody Hall/ Caleb Patterson/ Isaac Patterson/ Titus Patterson	Steve Julian/ Al Alcoba/ Rich Kugler/ Kelly Simpson

Vistancia

Vistancia Worship Volunteers	December 15th	December 22nd	December 29th
Snacks	Maxine Freeman	Cathy Mundstock	-
Trailer Hauling	Norm Voigt	Nate Brown	Jon Wempner
Set up	Maxine Freeman	-	-
Take Down	-	-	-
Sound Management	-	-	-
Piano Playing	Cathy Mundstock	-	-
Ushers	Bill Brooks/ Brian Ehinger/ Jake Ehinger/ Trey Ehinger/ Jon Yauck/	Gray Jeffers/ Grant Stern/ John Wempner/ Kelly Simpson	Chris Patterson/ Cody Hall/ Caleb Patterson/ Isaac Patterson/ Titus Patterson

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

December 16th 3:45pm	Christmas Crafting
December 17th 9:30am	Women's Bible Study
December 17th 3:45pm	Tumbling
December 17th 6:30pm	Board of Ed
December 18th 9:00am	Mornings with Mommy
December 18th 3:45pm	Christmas Crafting
December 18th 7:00pm	Choir Practice
December 20th 11:30 am	Early Dismissal- Christmas Break Begins
Dec. 21st - Jan. 5th	Christmas Break
December 21st 6:00pm	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 22nd 9:00am	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 22nd 9:30am	Worship Service (Vistancia)
December 22nd 10:30am	Bible Study
December 22nd 10:30am	Sunday School
December 22nd 10:30am	Choir Practice

LOOKING AHEAD

December 24th 6:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
December 25th 10:00am	Christmas Day Service
December 28th 6:00pm	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 29th 9:00am	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 29th 9:30am	Worship Service (Vistancia)

Growth Groups

Pastor Ehlers- The Book of Jude

Wednesdays at 9.18.19- 12.11.19

Michael Wenniger's House

Sunday Morning Bible Class-What is in Your Bible?

Sunday at 10:30 Jomax Campus

Tim Grams - The Book of ACTS

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

9.18.19- 12.11.19

Grams House

Women's Bible Study- Book of Colossians

COG Golden Agers

Please join for brunch and fellowship on first Thursday of every month, at 9:30am. Held at The Five and Diner Delux, 11340 W Bell Road, #125, Surprise, Az. RSVP to Judy Sasse, email or phone, sasseja43@aol.com or 602-618-6967.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

For members and friends with noteworthy blessings, difficulties or health issues. Today we especially remember in our prayers and ask God to give strength, comfort and courage to them and their families.

Jack Powell, who fell recently and had surgery to help mend a broken hip and arm.

Gerry Ehlers, who continues to struggle with cancer and whose daughter (in her 40s) died suddenly last week from a heart attack.

Juanita Word, who fell recently and had surgery to mend her broken leg and has a six month recovery ahead.

Beth Breamer, the sister of Clarine Wallace, who had surgery on Friday, November 15th, to remove a kidney & other cancer.

Gerry Ehlers, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and undergoes treatments.

MILITARY

Major JD Larson,
son of John & Chi Larson,
based at Kirkland AFB in New Mexico.

Sara (Dan) McArdle,
daughter of Martha (Scott) Wofford,
Air Force Pilot, based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Sgt. Blake Andrew Nelsen,
son of Rick & Karyn Nelsen and
brother of Seri & Lilli, USMC.

Ben Weyer, serving in the military, Currently deployed to the Persian Gulf. Please pray that our Heavenly Father keeps him safe in his journey.

ONE CHURCH....TWO LOCATIONS

JOMAX CAMPUS - NEWS

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th 6:00 pm

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25th 10:00 am

New Years Eve Service

Tuesday, December 31st 6:00 pm



VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

Hayride & Caroling

Friday, December 13th 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th 6:00 pm

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25th 10:00 am

New Years Eve Service

Tuesday, December 31st 6:00 pm

Celebrate Christmas with us!

Christmas Eve

6 P M

Christmas Day

10 A M



Cross of Glory was planted by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) in March 1998 so that with the Gospel of Jesus she can strengthen the faith of her members and reach out into the community with the free gift of salvation. First worship services began at Easter 1999; the dedication of our Ministry Center at Easter, 2005. On Easter of 2017, we began services at our second site in the Vistancia community. Our synod's name reflects that her founders began in the state of Wisconsin. As a WELS church we still hold to the teachings of the Bible restored in the Reformation era. We are...

- a Christ-preaching church. We preach that Jesus is true God, the Son of God who became man, so that through his perfect life and innocent death, He is the prophesied "Lamb of God" who has taken away the sin of the world.
- a Bible-believing church. We teach that the Bible is the verbally inspired, inerrant Word of God, the only authority for Christian faith and life. We aim to teach God's Word in all its truth and simplicity.
- an evangelical church. We trust the Bible's claim that God saves people through the power of the Gospel in the Word and Sacraments. The Gospel is the Good News (the Evangel) about Jesus' saving work. The WELS has congregations throughout the USA and around the world to share the Evangel, the Bible's primary message, with all people.
- a people-caring church. That we're all sinners equally saved by Jesus' substitutionary work strips away human judgments and egos. This truth also empowers us to live Jesus' love for all people by offering friendship, support, and Biblical counseling. Our church family cares about other people-- including you.

Our Preschool & Elementary School exists to help parents in their God-given duty of teaching the Faith to their children: an important aspect of our Church's plan to grow a comprehensive womb-to tomb ministry that serves souls for eternity.