



They Prepare a Way
Joseph: *How Great is a Father's Love*

Advent 4
Sunday, December 22, 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:

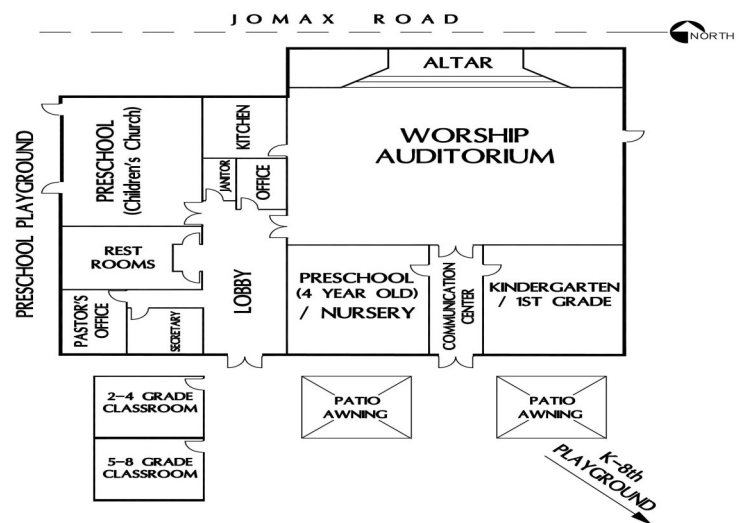
- Large print bulletin available from usher
- Seats with armrests available

Worship focus

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem (CW65) 3 Vs.

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

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 Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

(Lighting the Bethlehem Candle)

M: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the Anointed for the nations and their Savior:

C: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

**All: (Sung) Oh come, Oh come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
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

Psalm 103:19-22

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. ²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. ²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. ²² Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, my soul.

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)**

CHOIR

Come Messiah

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

THE SCRIPTURE OF ANTICIPATION

Revelation 14:6-13

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷ He said in a loud voice, “Fear

God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”⁸ A second angel followed and said, “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”⁹ A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand,¹⁰ they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.¹¹ And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”¹² This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

(Spoken Responsively)

**C: Alleluia! The virgin will be with child And will give birth to a Son,
And they will call him Immanuel. (*Matthew 1:23*)**

SERMON HYMN

This is He (*LAP300*) 3 Vs.

In a lowly manger born, Humble life begun in scorn.
Under Joseph’s watchful eye, Jesus grew as you and I;
Knew the suff’rings of the weak, Knew the patience of the meek
Hungered as but poor folks can, This is he; behold the man!
Visiting the lone and lost, steadying the tempest-tossed,
Giving of himself in love, Calling minds to things above.
Sinners gladly hear his call, Penitent, before him fall
For to him new life begun. This is he; behold the man!
Then, to rescue you and me, Jesus died upon the tree.
See in him God’s love revealed; By his passion we are healed.
Now he lives in glory bright, Lives again in pow’r and might,
Come and take the path he trod Son of Mary, Son of God.

SERMON

**They Prepared a Way: *Joseph*
*How Great is a Father’s Love***

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But after he had considered this, an an-

gel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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.

SONG OF THE SEASON

Still, Still, Still (LAP289) 3 Vs.

Still, still, still, Your heart with joy I’d fill.

I’d sing you a song and watch by your manger,

Guard you from harm and keep you from danger.

Still, still, still, your heart with joy I’d fill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, ‘Mid the oxen and the sheep.

The shepherds come to see your glory;

Angels bend low to tell the story,

Sleep, sleep, sleep, ‘mid the oxen and the sheep.

Still, still, still, within your holy will.

To you, great God, my voice I’ll raise,

With awe and wonder sing your praise,

Still, still, still, within your holy will.

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**

How Suddenly a Baby Cries 2 V/s.

**How suddenly a baby cries and all forever change
As shepherds leave the angel song to find this holy place,
Where in her young and trembling arms a virgin holds her Son
And in this Child of breath divine our Light has finally come.
How suddenly a baby cried and all forever changed.
Through history soul by soul have come to find His healing grace.
He filled my troubled heart with peace, with hope of endless worth.
My voice will join the song of praise that tells Messiah's birth.**

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Announcements

****The Treasurer Report is available for pickup in the Church entry.

****A workday is planned for January 4th at 9:00am. The plan is to build the new shed and organize the big shed.

****Vistancia will be having two Potluck and planning meetings in January that will be held at Vistancia's Mountain Vista Club. Pastor Ehlers has passed out info that will be discussed at this meeting. If you are interested and did not receive the information packet, please contact Pastor Ehlers.

****January 8-12th we have 7 college 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 for Vistancia Worship Volunteers for December and January. Areas 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.

****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 welscongregationalservices.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 22nd	December 29th	January 5th
Refreshments	Rachel Plituweit/ Maria Kelly	Laurel Bollmeier/ Connie Sauer	Lisa Beilke/ Liz Simkauskas
Greeters	-	Bollmeier	-
Counters	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner Voigt	Sasse/Cannon
Church Cleaners	Sauer/Kelly	Moe/ James	Plitzuweit/Alcoba/ Peterson
Communion Set-Up	-	-	Sharon
Ushers	Chris Patterson/ Cody Hall/ Caleb Patterson/ Isaac Patterson/ Titus Patterson	Steve Julian/ Al Alcoba/ Rich Kugler/ Kelly Simpson	Bill Brooks/ Brian Ehinger/ Jake Ehinger/ Trey Ehinger/ Jon Yauck

Vistancia

Vistancia Worship Volunteers	December 22nd	December 29th	January 5th
Snacks	Cathy Mundstock	-	-
Trailer Hauling	Nate Brown	Jon Wempner	Ed Taylor
Set up	-	-	-
Take Down	-	-	-
Sound Management	-	-	-
Piano Playing	-	-	-
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

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

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)

LOOKING AHEAD

December 31st 6:00pm	New Years Eve Service
January 2nd 9:30am	Golden Agers Brunch
January 4th 8:00am	Elders Meeting
January 4th 6:00pm	Worship Service w/Communion (Jomax)
January 5th 9:00am	Worship Service w/Communion (Jomax)
January 5th 9:30am	Worship Service w/Communion (Vistancia)
January 5th 11:15am	Potluck /Planning Meeting (Vistancia Vista Club)

Growth Groups

Pastor Ehlers

Wednesdays at Resuming 1.15.20
Michael Wenniger's House

Sunday Morning Bible Class-What is in Your Bible?

Sunday at 10:30 Jomax Campus
Resumes 1.12.20

Tim Grams - The Book Galations

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
1.15.20- 2.19.20
Grams House

Women's Bible Study- God the Ul- timate Humanitarian

Tuesdays at 9:30 am
Resuming 1.14.19
Karen Jurado's House

Mom's Group- Ally Kelley

Wednesday at 9:00 am
Resumes 1.8.20
Ally Kelley's House

Pastor Freeman- A Study of 1 and 2 Timothy

Saturdays 7:50 am
Resumes 1.4.20
Jomax Campus

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. Please 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.~~

~~**Pastor Ehlers - The Book of** **Sunday Morning Bible Class -** **Tim Grams - The Book of**
Jude
Jack Powell, who fell recently and had surgery to help mend her broken leg and arm. **Wednesday at 6:30 pm**
12.11.19
Gerry Ehlers, who continues to struggle with cancer and whose daughter (in her 40s) died suddenly last week from a heart attack.
Women's Bible Study- Book **Mom's Group- Ally Kelley** **Pastor Freeman- A Study of**
Juanita Wood recently and had surgery to mend her broken leg and has a six months recovery ahead.
Beth Breaman, 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.

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

Cross of Glory
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th 6:00 pm
(Jomax)

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25th 10:00 am
(Jomax)

New Years Eve Service

Tuesday, December 31st 6:00 pm
(Jomax)

Potluck/Planning Meeting

Sunday, January 5th 11:15 am
(Mountain Vista Club)

Potluck/Planning Meeting

Sunday, January 26th 11:15 am
(Mountain Vista Club)

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.