

The Angels of God and the Final Advent

Advent 1
Sunday, November 29, 2020
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 Cross of Glory's online worship! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament, and we recognize that this can happen via technology as well as in a physical building. Thank the Lord for blessing us with the means to continue worshipping together in this way! As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power fill you.

Please take the time to note some things about how worship will work online:

Attendance – We would still like to gather an accurate account of who is worshipping with us for each service. Please let us know you are worshipping by commenting in the chat box. List your full name (first and last) in your message.

Chatting and discussing – Before and after each service, there is time available to chat with others. We invite you to do so, as this is a way we can preserve the sense of community we have on a normal Sunday morning. We do ask that you keep chatting to a minimum during the service, so that others can focus on what's happening.

Giving – Please continue to give your attention to the gifts God asks you to give to support his work. During the time of the offering, an encouragement will be given to give electronically. You can do so by clicking the menu icon (3 horizontal bars) in the upper left corner, next to where it says Cross of Glory Lutheran Church. Then click the word "Giving" to go to our Vanco page. You can also give by scanning the QR code in the bulletin with your phone's camera, or by mailing a check to us at 10111 W Jomax Rd, Peoria, AZ 85383. Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time!



God bless our time together in worship today!



We are in the first week of Advent. Advent is a Latin word that means "coming." Coming implies waiting. Advent is an invitation to wait—quietly, patiently, expectantly, joyfully—not only to remember a Savior who has come, but one who will come again. In the service today, we will be lighting the Advent wreath. This is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is a circular candle holder that holds five candles. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday until all of the candles, including the fifth candle, are lit on Christmas Day. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Today, in this season of Advent we light the 1st candle—THE ANGELS' CANDLE or CANDLE OF LOVE – This candle is also called the Good News candle, because it symbolizes the final glorious coming of the Savior with all his angels on the Last Day.

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Service of the Word

 **OPENING HYMN** Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes | CW9 5 Vs.

Jesus, your Church with longing eyes For your expected coming waits.
When will the promised light arise And glory beam from heaven's gates?
E'en now, when tempests round us fall And wintry clouds o'ercast the sky,
Your words with pleasure we recall And know that our redemption's nigh.
Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew, Our sins forgive, our foes suppress,
Our rooted enmity subdue, And crown your gospel with success.
Oh, come and reign o'er ev'ry land; Let Satan from his throne be hurled.
Let nations bow to your command; Let grace revive a dying world.
Teach us in watchfulness and prayer To wait for your appointed hour,
And fit us by your grace to share The triumphs of your conqu'ring pow'r.

GREETING *(Spoken Responsively)*

M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and his Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS *(Spoken Responsively)*

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE *(Sung by Congregation)*

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Congregation Sings:

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens,
your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING—ANGELS' CANDLE

(Responsive reading and Sung Response)

Congregation Sings:

**As we light the Advent candle with the light of love burning bright.
Faithfully we wait for His coming; faithfully it shines through the night.
In our humble hearts a fire burns as well hear the prayer these flames would tell.**

M: We light four Advent candles now. The Angels' Candle kindles bright.

C: Dispelling darkness, Jesus comes and warms us with his holy light.

M: As angels sang the stars awake on that first joyful Christmas night,

C: So one day soon they will announce the second coming of the Christ.

M: Once Christmas changed all history; now history waits for change again.

C: We hold our breath and watch the skies, for all the earth is Bethlehem.

M: With angels 'round his glorious throne and trumpet peals that split the sky,

C: Our King will come to bring us home and wrap us in his shimmering light.

Congregation Sings:

**As we light the Advent candle with the light of love burning bright.
Faithfully we wait for His coming; faithfully it shines through the night.
In our humble hearts a fire burns as well hear the prayer these flames would tell.
O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.**

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. “The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forev-

er. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

1ST & 2ND GRADE CHOIR

The Lord is Right Beside You

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. *(Matthew 1:23)*

Sung by the Congregation:

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**



SERMON HYMN

As Angels Joyed with One Accord | CW5 5 Vs.

As angels joyed with one accord Upon the advent of our Lord.

So laud we all and bless the name of him who from the Father came.

He came, not clothed in majesty Nor pow'r that suits his deity.

In lowly state he walked till he In dying set us captives free.

This done, he soared to God's right hand. Yet orphaned not his chosen band.

For he, not bound in grace and pow'r. Attends his own each day and hour.

In ev'ry age let praise abound He comes; we hear his voice resound.

His glorious gospel does not cease To bring us comfort, joy, and peace.

Lift up your heads! All grief and pain Shall vanish when he comes again.

Where we shall see him face to face. There joy alone shall have a place.

When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.

CD recordings of sermons freely supplied for study or sharing. Please request on the Friendship Card.

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

O Children, Come | 3 Vs.

Hear the cry from Bethlehem O children come
Son of God now born to men O children come –
Bring your troubles, bring your fears, Bring the needs that draw you near,
Find the hope of all the years – O children come!

Peace on earth good will to men O children come
Righteous rule that will not end O children come –
Lay down all your bitterness, Turn from sin's toil and distress,
Find His grace and perfect rest – O children come!

Where the Father's grace has walked O children come
Where you see the hurt and lost O children come –
Show the mercy shown to you, Gifts of kindness to renew,
Love from hearts sincere and true – O children come!

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

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

(Prayed by Minister)

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.



CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | CW12 4 Vs.

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With your beloved name.

Call News and Meeting

At our call meeting on Sunday, November 15, the voters extended two calls for our school.

The first call was extended to Andrew Aguilar to be our principal and 7-8 grade teacher. He currently serves as superintendent of California Lutheran High School. He is married with 5 children, whose ages range from 23 down to 13. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. If you'd like to be in touch with him, his email address is aaguilar@clhsonline.net.

The second call was extended to our current 3-4 grade teacher, Rachel Severeid. She currently holds a 1-year provisional call from us, and we are seeking to make it permanent. The call also includes teaching departmentalized music and instrumental lessons in the school. Rachel is also holding a call from Emmanuel in Tempe to teach third grade and do music and drama. Please keep her in your prayers as she thinks about where she can best serve. She is open to hearing from you as well. You can contact her via [email](mailto:rachel.severeid@crossofglory.org): rachel.severeid@crossofglory.org or phone: 920-629-1278.

Mornings with Mommy



Enjoy a live-streamed “Happy Birthday, Jesus” Party geared to ages 1-6. This event will feature a retelling of the Christmas story featuring live nativity animals, age-appropriate songs and crafts, a “Happy Birthday, Jesus!” finale and suggested activities for families to continue the celebration after the event!

Anyone who RSVPs will be notified when the craft kits are available to be picked up. Craft kits include a nativity ornament craft, a nativity sticker set, a birthday candle for baby Jesus and more!

Please RSVP via Emailed News Letter!

Advent by Candlelight

Our annual Advent by Candlelight will be held December 6 at 3:00 p.m. with set-up at 2:00 p.m.

Out of respect for everyone's personal preferences for safety and levels of isolation, we are celebrating Advent by Candlelight in a number of ways this year.

For the large-group, in-person option at the Jomax campus, we will have spaced-out seating with 5 at a table (unless family units up to 8 want to sit together). We will serve individually-wrapped treats, and servers will wear gloves and masks. Masks are optional but encouraged for attendees.

To be a virtual table host, you may sign up to host a group of friends or family in your home while you, as a small group, tune in to the service via zoom. Details will be largely left to the hostess to invite, prepare, serve and start the Zoom meeting for the program at your home.

For individuals who would like to watch from home without hosting a small group, a Zoom link will be provided, and we look forward to joining hearts with you!

Please signup online or let Liz or Becky now if you plan to attend.



Live Nativity



We are planning a Live Nativity December 13th from 3-5pm and need volunteers to help. Please review the [Sign-up](#) in the weekly news or contact Liz if there is something you would like to help with. This is a great opportunity for Cross of Glory to interact with the community and school to share the message of the Savior.

Vistancia Events

Vistancia Holiday Lights Tour

It's that special time of year again. Time to bundle up in a cozy sweater, brew delicious hot cocoa, and scour the neighborhoods looking for the best-of-the-best home Christmas light displays Vistancia has to offer! This holiday season, start a new family tradition by driving neighborhood to neighborhood to see the lighted spectacle in Vistancia. All submissions will be added to an easy-to-follow neighborhood guide that will be handed out on Friday, Dec. 18.

Our Vistancia Campus is hosting a stop on the Vistancia Holiday Lights tour offering holiday treats to anyone driving around enjoying the festive lights. This event takes place on December 18, from 6-8 p.m.



Christmas Concert



On Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 p.m., Cross of Glory will be performing its normal Christmas Eve Concert in the Park for the residents in Vistancia.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Topic: The Book of Romans

Sundays at 10:30am In Person or Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74701697177?pwd=OFp0WHhjMVZBN3pzVEZEQm9zVWZtUT09>

Meeting ID: 747 0169 7177

Passcode: 7t71C8

Vistancia Weekly Devotion

Sundays at 7:00 pm via ZOOM

(if interested in joining contact Pastor Ehlers)

New River Growth Group

The Gospel of Matthew

2nd & 4th Mondays at 6:30 pm

Location: New River Kiwanis Park, New River

Contact Pastor John Ehlers

Mom's Group (Zoom only)

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Contact Ally Kelley

Gram's Group

The Story of Joseph

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Location: Sun City West

Contact Tim and Brenda Grams

Women's Bible Study

'In God's Orchard' Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life

Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Location: West Olive Avenue, Peoria

Contact Karen Jurado

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

December 1st 9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
December 1st 6:00 pm	Evangelism Meeting
December 1st 6:30 pm	Grams Growth Group
December 1st 7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
December 2nd 10:00 am	Mom's Growth Group
December 3rd 4:00 pm	Catechism Study Hall
December 3rd 5:00 pm	Catechism
December 5th 7:30 am	Work Day
December 5th 6:00 pm	Worship Service W/Communion
December 6th 9:00 am	Worship Service W/Communion (Jomax)
December 6th 9:00 am	Worship Service Online
December 6th 9:30 am	Worship Service in the Park (Vistancia)
December 6th 10:30 am	Sunday Morning Bible Study
December 6th 3:00 pm	Advent by Candlelight

LOOKING AHEAD

December 8th 9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
December 8th 6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
December 8th 6:30 pm	Grams Growth Group
December 9th 10:00 am	Mom's Growth Group
December 10th 4:00 pm	Catechism Study Hall
December 10th 5:00 pm	Catechism
December 10th 7:00 pm	Board of Ed
December 12th 6:00 pm	Worship Service
December 13th 9:00 am	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 13th 9:00 am	Worship Service Online
December 13th 9:30 am	Worship Service in the Park (Vistancia)
December 13th 10:30 am	Sunday Morning Bible Study
December 13th 3:00 pm	Live Nativity

Jomax Worship Volunteers	November 29th	December 6th	December 13th	December 20th
Counters	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner/Freeman	Wempner/Wilson	Wempner/Brooks
Cleaners	Patterson	Piepenbrink/ Pappenfuss	Martins/Ehlers	Grams/Kelley
Communion Set-up	-	Susie Cornell	-	Sharon Kull
Ushers	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers Grant Stern John Wempner Kelly Simpson	Chris Patterson Caleb Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson	

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.

Marilyn Bagwell, sister of Sharon Kull, recently diagnosed with cancer. May the Holy Spirit continue in her heart and care for her and perhaps cure her if that is his will.

Juanita Word, who is recovering at home after a fall.

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

MILITARY

E4 Specialist Alice Henderson, granddaughter of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at San Antonio, TX Ft. Sam Houston Army base in Medical Institute of Surgery Research: Burn Unit.

E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

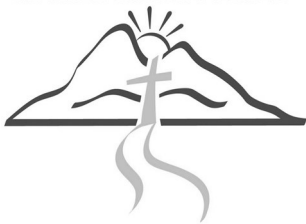
Major JD Larson, son of John & Chi Larson, based at Kirkland AFB in New Mexico.

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.

The Angels of God and the Final Advent



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.

*Saturday Worship at 6pm (Jomax)
Sunday Worship at 9am (Jomax) 9:30am (Vistancia)
Bible Study Session 10:30am (Jomax)*