

Epiphany
Sunday, January 3, 2021
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!

focus Worship

Today we celebrate **Epiphany**. While Christmas brought us face-to-face with Jesus as fully human—a baby son born to Mary and laid in a manger—the Sundays in Epiphany (Greek: *to reveal*) leave little doubt that we are looking at Jesus who is fully divine—the Son of God. If Christmas celebrates the fact that the Father gave his only-begotten Son to the world, then Epiphany is the unwrapping of this gift. Today we have been called to see Jesus as the Light of the World and as true God.

Our sermon text from Numbers 24 today speaks of an unlikely prophet, Balaam who foretold the coming of the King, Jesus—albeit an unlikely king, but the shining Star of Judah, the Scepter of Israel.

Acknowledgements Scripture taken from **THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Worship and Hymns sourced from Christian Worship (CW) © 1993 and/or Christian Worship Supplement (CWS) © 2008 by Northwestern Publishing House (NPH). All rights reserved. These and all other sources are used by permission under One License.net License # A-711716 and/or CCLI License # 1852086 and # CSPL136078 (*Video*).**

Divine Service II

OPENING HYMN

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star | CW79 3 Vs.

How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see and hail afar
The light in Judah shining. O David's Son of Jacob's race,
My Bridegroom and my King of grace, For you my heart is pining.
Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious, O victorious
Prince of graces, Filling all the heav'nly places.

O highest joy by mortals won, True Son of God and Mary's Son,
The highborn King of ages! In your blest body let me be,
E'en as the branch is in the tree, Your life my life supplying.
Sighing, Crying For the savor Of your favor
Resting never Till I rest in you forever.

O mighty Father, in your Son You loved me ere you had begun
This ancient world's foundation. Your Son has made a friend of me,
And when in spirit him I see, I joy in tribulation.
What bliss Is this! He is living, To me giving
Life forever; Nothing me from him can sever.

INVOCATION

(Spoken Responsively)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION *and* ABSOLUTION

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

(Spoken Responsively)

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD

(Sung to the tune of CW38 4 V.s.)

**All glory be to God on high! Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace, Your favor towards our fallen race.
Our grateful thanks to you we bring, For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.
O Lamb of God, to you we pray, You take all human sin away;
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer; From God's right hand, your mercy share.
You, Christ, are holy-Lord alone; The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again: "All glory be to God!" Amen.**

SALUTATION

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Romans 11:13-15, 28-32

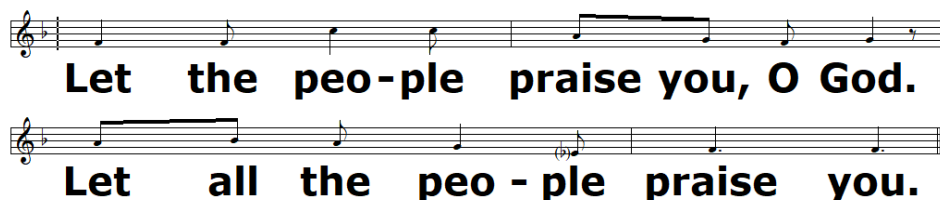
I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ²⁸As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far

as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

PSALM 72

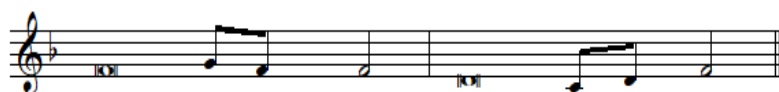
(Sung Responsively)

Refrain:



Let the peo-ple praise you, O God.
Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm Tone:



M: Endow the King with your justice, O God,

C: the royal Son with your right-eous-ness,

M: He will defend the afflicted among the peo-ple

C: and save the children of the need-y,

M: He will endure as long as the sun,

C: as long as the moon, through all gener-a-tions.

M: He will be like rain falling on a mown field,

C: like showers water-ing the earth.

Refrain

M: All kings will bow down to him,

C: and all the nations will serve him,

M: All nations will be blessed through him,

C: and they will call him blessed.

M: Praise be to the Lord God,

who alone does mar-vel-ous deeds.

C: May the whole earth be filled with his glo-ry.

ALL:

Glory be the Father and to the Son

And to the Holy Spir-it,

As it was in the be-gin-ning,

Is now, and will be forever. A-men.

Refrain

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia. *(Matthew 2:2b)*

Sung by the Congregation:

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” ⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

SERMON HYMN

What Star is This With Beams so Bright | *Melody: CW89 4 Vs.*

What star is this with beams so bright, More lovely than the noonday light?

'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, Glad tidings of our God to bring.

**'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, “From Jacob shall a star proceed”;
And lo! the eastern sages stand, To read in heav'n the Lord's command.**

**O Jesus, while the star of grace Impels us on to seek your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse The guidance of your light to use.**

**To God Creator, heav'nly light, To Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit blest we raise An endless song of thankful praise!**

Then he spoke his message: “The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly, ¹⁶ the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: ¹⁷ “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.

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

THE NICENE CREED

(Read Responsively)

M: The world claims everything evolved by accident. But what do Christians believe?

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

M: The world claims Jesus was only a noble and novel man. But what do Christians believe?

C: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

M: The world claims all people have an inborn, godly spirit. What do Christians believe?

C: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SONG OF THE SEASON

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel | 3 Vs.

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; This the Christ who was long foretold.
 Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
 God Most High in a manger laid; Lift your voices and now proclaim:
 Great and glorious, Love has come to us; Join now with the hosts of heaven.
 Come we to welcome; Emmanuel King who came with no crown or throne.
 Helpless He lay, the Invincible, Maker of Mary, now Mary's son.

O what wisdom to save us all, Shepherds, sages, before Him fall.
Grace and majesty, what humility; Come on bended knee, adore Him.
Go spread the news of Emmanuel; Joy and peace for the weary heart.
Lift up your heads, for your King has come; Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.
Glory shining for all to see, Hope alive, let the gospel ring.
God has made a way, He will have the praise; Tell the world His name is Jesus.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken by Minister)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken in Unison)

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**

O God from God, O Light from Light | CW85 2 V/s.

**O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings,
To you in heaven's glory bright The song of praise forever rings.
To him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain but raised again,
Be all the glory he has won, All thanks and praise! Amen, Amen.**

Deep in the prophets' sacred page, Grand in the poets' winged word,
Slowly, in type, from age to age The nations saw their coming Lord;
Till through the deep Judean night Rang out the song, "Good will to men!"
Sung by heav'n's hosts in splendor bright, Re-echoed now, "Good will!" Amen.

PERSONAL PRAYERS FOR COMMUNION

Before Communing

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communing

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Call News

On Sunday, December 20, the congregation met to issue a call for the third- and fourth-grade teacher position that will be vacated by Rachel Severeid when she leaves after this school year. It was decided to call Stacey Aguilar, wife of our soon-to-be principal, Drew Aguilar. Stacey is currently teaching K-4 at Concord Lutheran Academy in Temecula, CA. Please keep her in your prayers as she considers this call, as well as the whole Aguilar family as they make preparations to move to the Phoenix area this summer.

Please also continue to pray for the Severeids as Rachel finishes out the school year with us and prepares to transition to Emmanuel Lutheran School in Tempe this summer.

Strategic Planning Workshop

On November 20 and 21, the leadership team of Cross of Glory spent a total of 11 hours in meetings with two representatives of Grace in Action (GIA), Dan Sutton and Steve Granberg. Their goal was to train and support the COG team in the following areas:

Identifying Clifton Strengths in individual and team coaching

Developing a new Vision/Traction Organizer (VTO)

Investigating how to grow congregational involvement and buy-in

Also, six-year goals were set in the areas of property and facilities, church growth and member engagement, financial health, outreach, and preschool/LES/high school/youth. You will be hearing more about the new VTO in the future.

Drum Lessons

Are you interested in playing the drums? Jay Collins is offering Drum Lessons for \$20 a half-hour for adults, children 5 and up. If interested please contact Jay. (623)312-5347

Cross of Glory Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2021 are now available. They may be picked up at the Jomax facility from your mailbox in the hallway entrance to the sanctuary of the church. This year, for those who have been consistently using the on-line VANCO system for their giving, a box of envelopes has not been issued since it is assumed that you will continue to use the VANCO system. If at any time, you would like to go back to the use of envelopes for your offering, please let our Financial Secretary know (john.kull@cox.net or 858 395 5666) and a box of envelopes will be placed in your mailbox. Thank you for your continued support of our mission at Cross of Glory!

Thrivent T-Shirts

Please contact Liz with your size if you desire a Thrivent T-shirt, and she will put one in your box in the communication entryway. Contact her at cog.secretary@crossofglory.org

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

January 4th	Classes Resume
January 5th 6:00 pm	Evangelism Meeting
January 5th 7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
January 6th 10:00 am	Mom's Growth Group
January 7th 4:00 pm	Catechism Study Hall
January 7th 5:00 pm	Catechism
January 9th 6:00 pm	Worship Service (Jomax)
January 9th 6:00 pm	Worship Service Facebook Live
January 10th 9:00 am	Worship Service (Jomax)
January 10th 9:00 am	Worship Service Online
January 10th 10:30 am	Sunday Bible Study
January 10th 7:00 pm	Vistancia Zoom Devotion

LOOKING AHEAD

January 11th 6:30 pm	New River Growth Group
January 12th 9:30am	Women's Bible Study
January 12th 6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
January 13th 10:00 am	Mom's Growth Group
January 14th 4:00 pm	Catechism Study Hall
January 14th 5:00 pm	Catechism
January 16th 6:00 pm	Worship Service (Jomax)
January 16th 6:00 pm	Worship Service Facebook Live
January 17th 9:00 am	Worship Service (Jomax)
January 17th 9:00 am	Worship Service Online
January 17th 10:30 am	Sunday Bible Study
January 17th 7:00 pm	Vistancia Zoom Devotion

Jomax Worship Volunteers	January 10th	January 17th	January 24th
Counters	Wempner/ Cornell	Wempner/ Freeman	Wempner/ Wilson
Cleaners	Patterson	Martins/Ehlers	Simkauskas/ Pappenfuss
Communion Set-up	-	Judy Sasse	-
Ushers	John Kull Bill Grams Paul Pappenfuss	Verl Naber Al Alcoba Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger

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, was recently diagnosed with cancer. May the Holy Spirit continue working in her heart and protect 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.

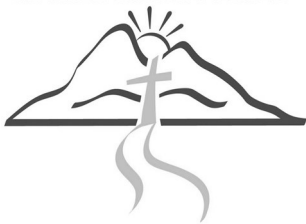
E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

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.



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)