

The Chief Shepherd and His Flock

Advent 3 Sunday, December 13, 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 worshiping 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 worshiping with us for each service. Please let us know you are worshiping 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 third 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 3rd candle—THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or CANDLE OF JOY – We can have joy that Jesus, the Savior, came into our world and into the hearts and lives of believers, like the shepherds and like us.

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

MN O Lord of Light, Who Made the Stars | CW31—Melody CW38 4 Vs.

O Lord of light, who made the stars, O Dawn, by whom we see the way,

O Christ, Redeemer of the world: Come now and listen as we pray.

In lowliness you came to earth to rescue us from Satan's snares,

O wondrous Love that healed our wounds by taking on our mortal cares.

To pay the debt we owned for sin, Your painful cross was made the price; From blessed Mary's womb you came, A victim pure for sacrifice.

But now you reign, the King of kings, Adored in highest majesty; Your very name is held in awe from pole to pole and sea to sea.

INVOCATION

(Spoken Responsively)

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION and **ABSOLUTION**

- 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

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.

(Spoken R*esponsively)* sking him in the

(Spoken Responsively)

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 CW16 4 Vs.)

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

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING—SHEPHERD'S CANDLE

Congregation Sings:

As we light the Advent candle with the light of joy 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 three Advent candles now. The Shepherds' Candle kindles bright.

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

M: We see the shepherds on the hill who heard the angels' "Gloria,"

C: Who ran to find the holy Child and knelt in gratitude and awe.

M: The shepherds were not slow to trust the angels' unexpected word,

C: Nor were those shepherds shy to share the miracle they'd seen and heard.

M: Let's wrap ourselves in shepherds' cloaks and search for that most holy Boy.

(Responsive reading and Sung Response)

(Spoken by Minister)

(Spoken Responsively)

C: Let's kneel and worship, pray and praise, and share with all the world this joy.

Congregation Sings:

As we light the Advent candle with the light of joy 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

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blame-less at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. *(Matthew 11:10)*

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

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord." ²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

SERMON HYMN

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness fails me never; I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My Savior gently leads me, And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feeds me.

Confused and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me And on his shoulder gently laid And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With you, dear Lord, beside me; Your rod and staff my comfort still, Your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight, A banquet here bestowing; Your oil of welcome, my delight; My cup is overflowing!

And so through all the length of days Your goodness fails me never. Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise Within your house forever!

SERMON

The Chief Shepherd and His Flock

Psalm 95:6,7

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; ⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

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

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister) (Spoken by Congregation)

(Spoken by Minister)

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

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.

(Prayed by Minister)

BLESSING

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

```
Where Shepherds Lately Knelt | CW54 3 Vs.
```

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half-belief a pilgrim strangely stirred; But there is room and welcome there for me, But there is room and welcome there for me. In that unlikely place I find him as they said;

Sweet newborn Babe how frail! and in a manger bed,

A still, small voice to cry one day for me,

A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,

To die, to live, and not alone for me,

To die, to live, and not alone for me?

Live Nativity & Christmas Programs



The Live Nativity will be held this Sunday, December 13, from 3:00-5:00. Come and see children and volunteers tell of our newborn King! Bring a friend! Hot chocolate and individually-wrapped cookies will be served.

The preschoolers are partnering with K-2 to put together a Christmas program, which will be recorded and shared with families. Look for that link to be shared next week!

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



Call News

Mrs. Severeid continues to consider where she can best serve with her gifts, here at Cross of Glory or at Emmanuel in Tempe. If she would accept the call to Tempe, she would finish this school year at Cross of Glory and start there over the summer. Please keep her in your prayers, and feel free to contact her with your encouragements. You can contact her via <u>email</u> or phone: 920-629-1278.

This past weekend, we got some major news: Andrew Aguilar has decided to **accept** the call we extended to him! This means that he will be taking over as principal when he arrives in the summer of 2021. He will also be teaching grades 7-8, allowing us to split grades 5-8 into 5-6 and 7-8. This is a great step forward for our school, and we are so thankful to God for this blessing!

Mr. Aguilar is married with 5 children. See the picture and caption below for a little more information about the family:



From left to right:

Wesley (23) - WELS junior high teacher at St. John's, Peshtigo,
WI, who will be married in June 2021.
Andrew - Hobbies include playing guitar, bass, and drums and watching my kids play sports. I'm a bit of a foodie.
Stacey - Teaches kindergarten through 4th grade; loves reading, attending concerts, and going on dates with Andrew.
Kati (21) - Will graduate from MLC this spring with ECE degree.
Joel (Kati's husband) - Banker/Finance career and finishing his business degree from Minnesota State University.
Ethan (20) - Junior at MLC and quarterback for the Knights.
Kassidy (18) - Freshman at MLC, plays volleyball for the Knights, and loves singing and playing (guitar and keyboard) contemporary

Christian music. Karin (13) - An 8th grader at Concord Lutheran Academy who plays volleyball and basketball and also plays piano and sings.

ACSTO

We have a custom Cross of Glory link that will make donating your tax dollars a little easier this year! For more information on how to donate or how the tax credit works, get in touch with Becky Foxen at 623-340-8354 or donate at https://pages.acsto.org/school/cross-of-glory

Support COG While You Shop

Want to do some good while you shop for your holiday gifts on Amazon? With <u>Amazon Smile</u>, you can support charity easily and automatically.

IN 2020

CREDIT

Just point your browser (or modify your Amazon bookmark) to <u>smile.amazon.com</u>, then choose Cross of Glory Lutheran Church to support.

Then just shop like normal. So long as you're doing it via that web address, Amazon will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases. All prices and products are the same as they would be if you bought them without using Smile.







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 Vistanica. All submissions will be added to an easy-tofollow 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



The site for the Christmas concert scheduled for Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 p.m. in Vistancia has been changed due to COVID-19 attendance restrictions for parks. Instead, the concert will take place at the Cross of Glory Jomax campus.

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	<u>Mom's Group</u> (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 14th 6:30 pm December 15th 6:30 pm December 16th 10:00 am December 17th 4:00 pm December 17th 5:00 pm December 18th December 18th 11:30 am December 18th 6:00 pm December 19th 6:00 pm December 19th 6:00 pm December 20th 9:00 am December 20th 9:00 am December 20th 10:30 am December 20th 4:00 pm New River Growth Group Grams Growth Group Mom's Growth Group Catechism Study Hall Catechism End of Second Quarter Early Dismissal Festival of the Lights Facebook Live Worship Service Worship Service (Jomax) Worship Service Online Sunday Morning Bible Study Christmas Eve Concert in the Park (at Jomax)

LOOKING AHEAD

December 24th 3:30 pm December 24th 6:30 pm December 25th 10:00 am December 27th 9:00 am December 27th 9:00 am Christmas Eve Service Christmas Eve Service Christmas Day Service Worship Service (Jomax) Worship Service Online

Jomax Worship Volunteers	December 20th	December 24th	December 25th	December 27th	January 3rd
Counters	Wempner/ Brooks	-	-	Wempner	Wempner/ Schirripa
Cleaners	Grams/Kelley	-	-	Plitzuweit/ Alcoba/Peterson	Ebel/Koutia
Communion Set-up	Sharon Kull	-	-	-	Lynn Wempner
Ushers	Cody Hall Tanner Plitzuweit Levi Foxen	3:30 pm Kelly Simpson Al Alcoba Rich Kugler 6:00 pm John Kull Bill Grams Paul Pappenfuss	10:00 am Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers John Wempner	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 Perkola, sister of Corinne Julian, who will be undergoing surgery for colon cancer on December 9th.

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.

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)