



God *Points* Us to **THE** Prophet

Epiphany 4
Sunday, January 31, 2021
Full Script



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

Church Phone: 623-224-8839 School Phone: 623-224-8841

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!



Why follow Jesus? In our sermon text from Deuteronomy 18:15-20, God promised he would send a greater prophet by whose Word and work alone we are delivered from the dread wrath of God and called instead into blessed fellowship with him. Jesus is this greater prophet—that is able to deliver us from the wrath of God - this Messenger and his message brings us to life everlasting.

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*).

Service of the Word

OPENING HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise | CW82 3 Vs.

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
Manifested by the star To the Magi from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem, In your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding Guest, In your Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine, Changing water into wine.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.

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.**

HOLY BAPTISM

(Saturday Service )

Caleb Michael Contreras & Abigail Kay Contreras

M: In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought this child to be baptized. Jesus told us: “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God’s Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ. **Caleb Michael Contreras**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ. **Abigail Kay Contreras**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

M: Brother and sisters in Christ: Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that **Caleb and Abigail** may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength

M: Let us pray: Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on **Caleb and Abigail** and grant them a rich measure of your Spirit that they may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Heirs of salvation, Trusting his promise, Faithfully now God's Praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
One with his rising, Freed and forgiven, Thankfully now God's Praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Marked with the sign of Christ our King:
Born of one Father, We are his children; Joyfully now God's Praise we sing.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and to the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 3:1-6

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. ²He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵"Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister; Sung response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia.
(Luke 4:18a)

Sung by Congregation:

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²²The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had au-

thority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

 **SERMON HYMN**

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds | *CW358 5 Vs.*

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, And drives away all fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul And to the weary, rest.
Dear name! The rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place,
My never-failing treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.
By you my prayers acceptance gain Although with sin defiled;
Satan accuses me in vain For God calls me his child.
O Jesus, Shepherd, Guardian, Friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, Accept the praise I bring.**

SERMON

God Points us to THE Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” ¹⁷ The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”

(CD recordings of sermons freely supplied for study or sharing. Please request on the Connection 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

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel | 3 V/s.

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)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(Saturday Service 

Leslie & Pedro Contreras

THE 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

Abide O Dearest Jesus | CW333 4 Vs.

**Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with your grace
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.**

**Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with your Word
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.**

**Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through your Word.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.**

Vistancia News

Great news to share! Early December we applied for some grant money to help families in need in our mission field. Our request was granted, and our new approach to meeting and helping people will be kicked off February 27. We are partnering with Christian Family Solutions, a WELS counseling service, to educate and assist members of our community that are struggling with the stresses associated with our new state of living right now. We will kick off the work with a seminar on resiliency as it relates to the stresses we are facing. This program is called Cornerstone and is meant to assist congregations to reach out and help those in need. The time and place is yet to be determined, but reserve the day now, and we will get more details out to you very soon.

We will be starting worship 9:30am February 7th, at my home in Vistancia in person and Zoom.

To God be praise and glory! Pastor John Ehlers

Call News

On January 10th, Pastor Foxen received a call to serve as pastor to Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Ocala, Florida. The congregation there has 140 members. He would be the only pastor.

Please keep Pastor Foxen in your prayers as he weighs where he can best serve God with the gifts he's been given. He's eager to talk with you about the call and receive your advice and counsel. Feel free to contact him anytime: ben.foxen@crossofglory.org or 262-444-2746.

Communion Setup

We are looking for volunteers to help on the Communion set-up rotation. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lynn Wempner.

Church Cleaners

Cross of Glory is in need of a few more church cleaners for the rotation. If you are able to help please contact Liz to add you to the rotation. If we have enough people the rotation is once every two months.

Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study group completed the study of "In God's Orchard: Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life." If you are interested in doing the study on your own or would like to give the book as a gift, you may contact Liz in the church office to purchase one for \$12.

Cross of Glory 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!

CARE COMMITTEE FOR CALLED WORKERS

Patience and ingenuity would be the way to describe what our called workers have been doing for the past several months. Our pastors have been utilizing all available means at hand to conduct our worship services, to stay in touch with our membership, and to reach out to new prospects. Our teachers and staff have been faithfully carrying out their mission with our younger generation, again with all available means whether in person or virtually. To all of them, we owe a debt of gratitude and our solid support for a task whose results will last for eternity. We pray that our Lord continues to grant health and strength to them all to make this possible here at Cross of Glory.

Rich & Linda Kugler
Verl & Clara Naber

New Meditations

The new meditations have arrived and are located in the main entry on the shelves near the restrooms. When you pick up your next quarterly Meditations, drop off your used copy from the last quarter. There is a box next to the new Meditations. The WELS Prison Ministry appreciates this donation and distributes Meditations to prisoners who are always anxious to receive them. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

February 1st	Open Enrollment
February 1st 3:45 p.m.	Basketball Practice 3-4
February 1st 6:30 p.m.	Grams Growth Group
February 1st 6:30 p.m.	Pastor Foxen Growth Group
February 2nd 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
February 2nd 3:45 p.m.	Basketball Practice 5-8
February 2nd 6:00 p.m.	Evangelism Meeting
February 2nd 7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
February 3rd 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
February 3rd 3:45 p.m.	Basketball Practice 3-4
February 4th 3:45 p.m.	Basketball Practice 5-8
February 4th 4:00 p.m.	Catechism Study Hall
February 4th 5:00 p.m.	Catechism
February 6th 9:00 a.m.	LWMS Board Meeting
February 6th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
February 6th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service Facebook Live
February 7th 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
February 7th 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Online
February 7th 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Pastor Ehlers House Vistancia)
February 7th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Bible Study

LOOKING AHEAD

February 8th 3:45 p.m.	Basketball Practice 3-4
February 8th 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
February 8th 6:30 p.m.	Grams Growth Group
February 8th 6:30 p.m.	Pastor Foxen Growth Group
February 9th 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
February 9th 3:45 p.m.	Basketball Practice 5-8
February 9th 6:00 p.m.	Church Council
February 10th 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
February 10th 3:45 p.m.	Basketball Practice 3-4
February 11th 3:45 p.m.	Basketball Game Atonement/Skills Contest
February 11th 4:00 p.m.	Catechism Study Hall
February 11th 5:00 p.m.	Catechism
February 11th 5:30 p.m.	Kindergarten Information Night
February 11th 7:00 p.m.	Kindergarten Information Night
February 11th	No School—Valley Inservice
February 13th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
February 13th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service Facebook Live
February 14th 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
February 14th 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Online
February 14th 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Pastor Ehlers House Vistancia)
February 14th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Bible Study

Growth Groups

Pastor Foxen's Growth Group

The Chosen Series
 Mondays at 6:30 p.m. (Starting 2/1)
 Location: At church and via Zoom
 Contact Pastor Foxen

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75400877790?pwd=TUlsOGpWMnU1VU9iYUpZU3B0WVpwQT09>

Meeting ID: 754 0087 7790
 Passcode: k5k7Z1

New River Growth Group

The Gospel of Matthew
 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
 Location: New River Kiwanis Park, New River
 Contact Pastor John Ehlers

Grams Group (in person)

Discovering the Ancient Faith: OT Survey course (starts January 25 for 12 weeks)
 Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Sun City West
 Contact Tim and Brenda Grams

Women's Bible Study

"Full Accessories of God:
 The Spirit's Makeover for Women"
 Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
 Location: West Olive Avenue, Peoria
 Contact Karen Jurado

Vistancia Weekly Devotion (Zoom only)

Sundays at 7:00 p.m.
 Contact Pastor John Ehlers

Mom's Group (Zoom only)

Romans
 Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.
 Contact Ally Kelley

Jomax Worship Volunteers	January 31st	February 7th	February 14th
Counters	Wempner/ Brooks	Wempner/ Voight	Wempner/ Schirripa
Cleaners	Patterson	Kelley/ Grams	Plitzuweit/ Peterson
Communion Setup	-	Susie Cornell	-
Ushers	Gary Jeffers John Wempner Aaron Gullerud	Chris Patterson Caleb Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson	Codi Hall Levi Foxen Tanner Plitzuweit

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.

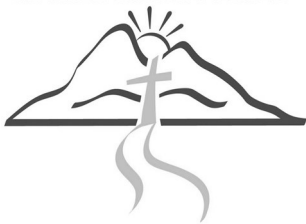
E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

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.