



Immanuel

God with us

Christmas Lessons and Carols Service—FULL SCRIPT

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

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Sun. 9:30am Worship

Emmanuel, God With Us

A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Ensemble

Come to us, O Promised One

Come to us, O Promised one. Fill our emptiness with love.

Whisper to our longing hearts your words of hope from up above.

Come, as the prophets did foretell: God with us, Emmanuel.

Come to us, O Counselor Bind each battered, broken heart.

Steady ev'ry stumbling step; heal each life that's torn apart.

Come, as the prophets did foretell: God with us, Emmanuel.

Come to us, O Prince of Peace. Save us from our endless strife.

Teach us how to walk in love; lead us to abundant life.

Come to us, O mighty God. Come in love to save us all.

Wrap your strength in tenderness; lift us up each time we fall.

Come, as the prophets did foretell: God with us Emmanuel.

Come to us, O Promised One. Come to us, O Prince of Peace.

Come to us, O Mighty God, God with us, Emmanuel.

Exhortation and Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child. But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation. And, because this would

please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

(Spoken by All)

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.

Hymn

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing | CWH338 3 Vs.

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place,
when sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and saints with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night,
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men
now and forevermore, Amen."

The seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head
Genesis 3:8-15

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Hymn

What Hope, An Eden Prophesied | CWH304 4 Vs.

What hope! An Eden prophesied where tame live with the wild,
the lamb and lion side by side, led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, a branch from David's line,
a Prince of Peace in Bethlehem; the fruit of God's design.

As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss,
that by his death a dying world would rally to the cross.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, lost Paradise restore;
lead past the angel's flaming sword- come, open heaven's door.

God's promises to Abraham

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the sea-shore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Hymn

Creator of the Stars of Night | CWH323 4 Vs.

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you, hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
You came to save a ruined race
with healing gifts of heav'nly grace.

When earth drew on to darkest night,
you came, but not in splendor bright,
not as a king, but as the child
of Mary, Virgin mother mild.

At your great name, majestic now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord
join those in heaven to call you Lord.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Choir

Emmanuel, God with Us

*O Emmanuel, God with us; You became man for us,
That you might join us all to yourself!*

*O Emmanuel, God with us; with a light to break the darkness,
You lived and died for us, making peace: Now God's with us.*

M: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

*O Emmanuel, God with us; You became man for us,
That you might join us all to yourself!*

*O Emmanuel, God with us; with a light to break the darkness,
You lived and died for us, making peace: Now God's with us.*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

Wonderful Counselor, Lord of life, Lord of all,

He is the Prince of Peace Mighty God, Holy One, Emmanuel, Emmanuel,

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

Wonderful Counselor, Lord of life, Lord of all,

He is the Prince of Peace Mighty God, Holy One, Emmanuel, Emmanuel,

Emmanuel, O Emmanuel. Emmanuel, O Emmanuel., Emmanuel.

A branch from the stem of Jesse

Isaiah 11:1-9; 40:1-5

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— ³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Choir

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel with Come, Messiah King
Prepare the Way of the Lord
Congregation will join on refrain as displayed

Soloist:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Song of God appear.*

Choir:

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Come, O come, Messiah King, Promised Son, sent to redeem us one by one,
So we may tell the wonders of your matchless love, Emmanuel.*

Congregation Joins:

Come, O come, Messiah King, Promised Son,
Sent to redeem us one by one,
So we may tell the wonders of your matchless love, Emmanuel.

Choir:

*Come, O come, Messiah King, Promised Son, sent to redeem us one by one,
So we may tell the wonders of your matchless love,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel; the wonders of your matchless love, Emmanuel.*

M: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Soloist:

*A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted up and ev'ry mountain made low."*

Choir:

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; All people shall see it together.
The mouth of the Lord has spoken it:
" The glory of the Lord shall be revealed!*

*A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted up, and ev'ry mountain made low."
Comfort, comfort my people, proclaim the promise of the Lord:
His name shall be called Emmanuel.*

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

*A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted up, and ev'ry mountain made low."*

*A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted up, and ev'ry mountain made low."*

*A voice cries out "Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord."*

The angel Gabriel visits Mary

Luke 1:26-35,38

²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Duet

Breath of Heaven

*I have traveled many moonless nights,
cold and weary with a babe inside,*

And I wonder what I've done.

Holy Father, you have come and chosen me now to carry your Son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer, I am frightened by the load I bear.

In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?

Be with me now, be with me now.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me.

Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,

Pour over me your holiness for you are holy, Breath of Heaven.

Do you wonder as you watch my face,

if a wiser one should have had my place?

But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan.

Help me be strong, help me, help me.

Breath of Heaven hold me together be forever near me,

Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,

Pour over me your holiness for you are holy.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me,

Breath of Heaven, Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,

pour over me your holiness for you are holy.

Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven.

The birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was ex-

pecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn

Away in a Manger | CWH340 3 Vs.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and take us to heaven to live with you there.

Ensemble

Mary, Did You Know?

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know, that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know, that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you've kissed the face of God.
The blind will see; the deaf will hear; the dead will live again.
The lame will leap; the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.
Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know, that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding, is the great I AM.*

The angels appear to the shepherds *Luke 2:8-14*

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Choir & Children's Choir

Christmastime with Angels We Have Heard on High
Congregation joins for "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Ring Christmas bells. Ring them loud with a message
bringing peace on the earth, tidings of good cheer!
Come, carolers, come and join with the angels, singing,
"Joy to the world!" Christmastime is here!*

*Children, gather around and listen,
You'll hear the sound of angels filling the sky
Telling ev'ryone Christmas time is here!*

*Ring Christmas bells, ring them loud with a message
bringing peace on the earth, tidings of good cheer!
Come, carolers, come and join with the angels singing,*

"Joy to the world!" Christmastime is here!

*Loved ones close to the hearts and strangers in lands afar
together sharing the joy; Emmanuel! Go, tell the world!*

He has come to dwell! The time is here!

With one voice let the world rejoice!

Congregation joins:

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Ring Christmas bells, ring them loud with a message
bringing peace on the earth, tidings of good cheer!*

Come, carolers, come and join with the angels singing,

"Joy to the world!" Christmastime is here!

Sing Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Sing Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The shepherds visit the manger

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Ensemble

Emmanuel ~ Hallowed Manger Ground

What hope we hold this starlit night: a King is born in Bethlehem.

Our journey long, we seek the light that leads to the hallowed manger ground.

*What fear we felt in the silent age, four hundred years can He be found?
But broken by a baby's cry; rejoice in the hallowed manger ground.*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God incarnate, here to dwell.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, praise his name, Emmanuel.

The Son of God here, born to bleed; a crown of thorns would pierce His brow.

*And we beheld this offering, exalted now the King of Kings,
praise God for the hallowed manger ground.*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God incarnate, here to dwell.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, praise his name, Emmanuel.

Praise his name, Emmanuel. Oh praise His name. O praise His name.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

The Magi worship the King *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 ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ 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 be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On 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 and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

*One small child in a land of a thousand, one small dream of a Savior tonight,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight, one small city of life.*

*One king brining his gold and riches, one King ruling an army of might;
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight, one King bringing us life.*

See him lying a cradle beneath him; see him smiling in the stall.

See his mother praising his Father; see his tiny eyelids fall.

*One small child in a land of a thousand, one small dream in a people of might,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight, one small Savior of life.*

*See the shepherds kneeling before him, see the kings on bended knee,
See his mother praising his Father, see the blessed infant sleep.*

One small child in a land of a thousand, one small Savior of life.

Offering and Offering Prayer

(Prayed by Minister)

Candle Lighting

*Following the offering, candles will be lit during this time
according to directions display —*

The minister will light his candle from the Christ Candle and light the candles of the ushers who will then light the candles of those seated on the end of each aisle. Each individual in each row will light the candle of the person next to them. The unlit candle should be tipped towards the vertical lit candle to avoid dripping wax.

The Mystery of the Incarnation

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷

He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Choir

O Holy Child of Bethlehem
The Congregation joins in singing Silent Night

Choir:

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us. we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in: be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O Come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Congregation:

Silent night!, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night!, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Choir:

*O Emmanuel, God with us; You became man for us,
that you might join us all to yourself!
O Emmanuel, God with us; with a light to break the darkness,
You lived and died for us, making peace: Now God's with us.
Now God's with us. God with us still, Emmanuel*

Closing Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

(Spoken by Minister)

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

Ensemble

O Holy Night

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world, In sin and error pining.
Till He appeared, And the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope The weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks A new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices.
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night divine, O night, O night divine!*

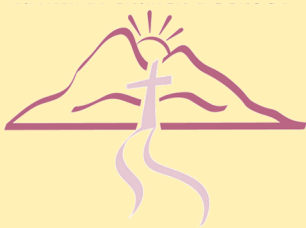
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New Year Eve Service

The New Year's Eve service at 6pm will be a special prayer service this year. We will gather together to meditate on the goodness of our God during the past year and to pray for his grace for the future. As most years of our lives, this past one has likely been a year of joys and a year of sadness. There have been days when all has worked out well and days when it seems nothing could go right. We have laughed at times, cried at times, contemplated at times, and sometimes just sat back in wonder at life. Such is life in this imperfect world.

Yet in the midst of uncertainty we have turned again and again to the Lord our God who does not change. His Word has been our fortress and our Rock of refuge in all times. So as we approach the New Year tonight we turn again to that Word – to its revelation and its promises. It helps us to know God better. It will direct our prayers. It will fill us with hope. It will remind us of the forgiveness which we have in Jesus for our failures. May the Lord bless our meditation and grant us a blessed New Year – connected with Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The style of music for this service was developed near the village of Taizé' in France. It consists of short meditative passages of Scripture set to simple melodies and repeated many times. The purpose of the repetition is to give us time to reflect and internalize the truths of these words of Scripture as we grow accustomed to the melody and no longer need to concentrate on notes. Cantors will lead the congregation in singing. As the melodies are repeated you may join in or just listen as you choose. Sometimes it is helpful to simply listen to what others are singing as you reflect on its meaning in your life.



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.