Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School



623-224-8839 • www.crossofglory.org
10111 W Jomax Road

Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

WELCOME to our worship center



God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

ABOUT US

The continuing purpose of this congregation, as a gathering of Christians, is to spread to all people in God's world the glory of the cross of Christ, by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.



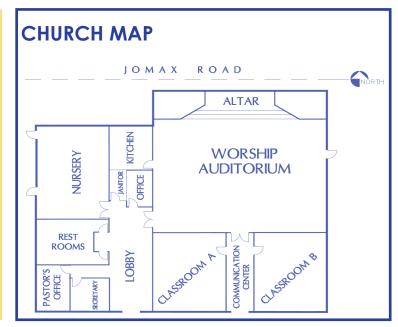
We believe in "the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints" (Apostles' Creed). All with saving faith in Jesus as their Savior are holy. God grants the status of saint to all believers. Since sainthood is achieved through faith in Christ, we refer to believers as the invisible Church. Members are unknown to us since only God can see the heart. Furthermore, even if we knew the identity of each saint on earth, they would not look all that different from the rest of mankind. Believers still struggle with trials, temptations, and sin. Nor does membership in the communion of saints make life easier. In some ways it makes life more difficult as we struggle against a world that is hostile towards Christ. However, some members of the communion of saints no longer struggle with trial and sin. They are not oppressed by an anti-Christian world. These are all the saints who, through their Christian death, have triumphed over all these things. The blessedness of being God's saint is no longer invisible for them. They live in the glory of Christ's light. This week, we thank God for those members of the communion of saints who have gone before us and now enjoy everlasting life. We feebly struggle, just as they once did. But now, thanks to Christ, they in glory shine. Their example encourages us as we patiently wait to join them.

VISITOR INFORMATION

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today! We invite you to stay after the service to chat and join us for coffee time followed by Bible study.

Would you like to learn more about us? We'd love to get to know you better as well. Connect with Cross of Glory by either:

- Using the friendship register at the end of each row to connect with us today.
- Emailing us at church. secretary@crossofglory.org



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult directly across the lobby.
- Children in Church Program: Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. We encourage parents to guide their children through the service. We invite children to come forward for the Children's Message during the service. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

Focus Today's Worship

Memorial Service with The Lord's Supper

In Memorial

(Spoken Responsively)

M: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

C: Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness. (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

M: Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

C: Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:1-2)

Evelyn Joyce Sternquist

February 14, 1933 - January 4, 2022

M: The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;

C: it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:25-26)

M: For the LORD will ransom Jacob

C: and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. (Jeremiah 31:11)

Arvid Sternquist

June 16, 1931—March 7, 2022

M: I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

C: And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. (John 11:25-26)

Opening Hymn: Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

Afflicted saint, to Christ draw near, your Savior's gracious promise hear; his faithful Word you can believe, that as your days your strength shall be.

Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the conflict should be long, the Lord will make the tempter flee, that as your days your strength shall be.



We begin Memorial Services recalling members called to heaven this past year now living in the glory of Christ's light.



CWH 867

Hymn of praise, prayer, or reflection on the season of the church year.

We follow the advice of the Apostle Paul to "teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

Refrain:

So, sing with joy, afflicted one; the battle's fierce, but the vict'ry's won! God shall supply all that you need; yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Should persecution rage and flame, still trust in your Redeemer's name.
In fiery trials you shall see that as your days your strength shall be. (Refrain)

When called to bear your weighty cross, or sore affliction, pain, or loss, or deep distress, or poverty, still as your days your strength shall be. (Refrain)



The order of service for Christian Funeral begins with a remembrance of baptism with Bible verses from Galatians 3:26-27 and Romans 6:35 reminding the congregation that through baptism we are children of God and will be raised just as Christ was risen.

Remembrance of Baptism

(Spoken Responsively)

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

C: Amen.

M: In Holy Baptism, we are clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all our sin. St. Paul affirms, "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

The apostle also writes, "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."

M: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed!

God's Comfort

(Spoken Responsively)

M: We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

We are further comforted and given the assurance by additional Bible verses (I Corinthians 15:53-57; Colossians 3:4) that a believer who dies in Christ will dwell with him forever in heaven.

M: The wages of sin is death,

C: but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C: He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: then we also will appear with him in glory.

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn the loss of those now fallen asleep, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts; dispel our doubts and fears. We thank you for bringing our loved ones to faith and giving them the gift of eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word and sacraments, and keep us in the saving faith until we are united with you and all the saints where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

First Reading Revelation 21:1–6

¹Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.



St. John is allowed to see the home of the saints triumphant. The Book of Psalms was the Old Testament hymnbook, prayer and liturgy book. It was used by worshipers at the temple. Many of the Psalms are the basis for our hymns and part of our liturgy is taken from the Psalms. The word "Psalm" comes from the Greek and means "a song sung to the accompaniment of a stringed instrument."

Psalm Psalm 149A

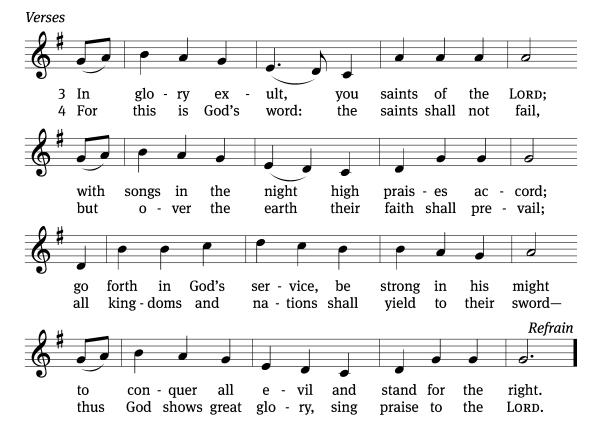
Soloist sings 1st refrain and Vs. 1-2; Congregation joins for remaining refrains and Vs. 3-4



Sing praise to the LORD, come sing a new song; amid all the saints God's praises prolong; let Israel be glad in their Maker and sing, let all Zion's people rejoice in their King. (Refrain)

With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim, with dancing and song give praise to God's name; for God in the faithful great pleasure will seek, with robes of salvation adorning the meek. (Refrain)

Congregation sings:



Text (sts. 3–4): Paslter, 1912, alt.; (Ref): Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Text (sts. 3–4) and tune: Public domain

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Gospel Luke 6:20–23

²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

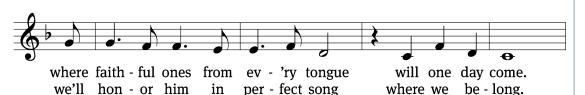
²²Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

²³"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets."

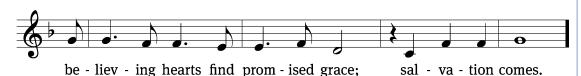


CWH 885









the Lamb be-comes our Shep-herd-King;

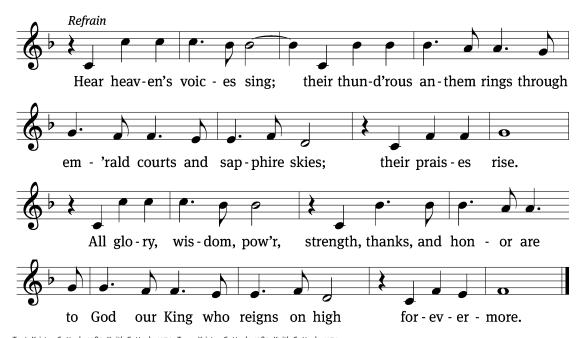


Jesus teaches that the blessedness of being God's saint is currently hidden from sight. Yet, one day, that blessedness will be revealed.



This hymn follows the theme of the readings and sets the stage for the sermon.

we'll reign with him.



In the sermon the Pastor proclaims God's Word and applies that word to modern life and problems. He stresses both what God demands of us (the Law) and what God does for us through Jesus Christ (the Gospel).

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Sermon

We Feebly Struggle; They in Glory Shine

Hebrews 11:32-40

³²And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

8

After hearing the word of God, the worshiper responds with this confession of faith.

The Nicene Creed was written in 325 A.D. to address false ideas about the divinity of Jesus Christ. That explains why the second article of the Nicene Creed is longer than its counterpart in the Apostles' Creed.

The Nicene Creed

(Spoken in Unison)

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

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 truly 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.

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: My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

CWH 626

Soloist sings Vs. 1-2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3

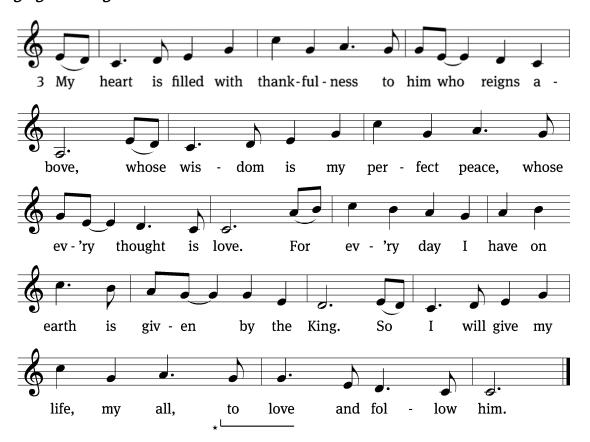
My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who bore my pain, who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again, who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of righteousness with pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who walks beside, who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly, whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take, sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.



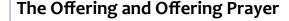
This is a hymn selected for the current church season that is generally new to our congregation, usually introduced first by a soloist, and repeated for several weeks to assist the congregation in learning the hymn.

Congregation Sings:



^{*} This phrase repeats at the end of st. 3.

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(Spoken by Minister)

Prayer

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, you are always with us, especially when our hearts are heavy with grief. Send us your Spirit so that even as we grieve we are filled with hope. You have convinced us that your Son Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ are resting in peace with you. Let nothing shake our confidence in your promise that we will be united with you and them in glory forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: What great mercy you have shown us, Father in heaven! Through your Son's resurrection, our hope is alive and our inheritance is certain. The bliss and security we will enjoy in your presence are blessings that will never perish, spoil, or fade. Shield us with your power and give us faith to trust in you in every trial until we inherit the glorious riches you are keeping for us in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.



The gifts of God's people are a response to God's blessings.

The apostle Paul encouraged young Pastor Timothy: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people ".

(I Timothy 2:1)

M: Gracious God, we see your abiding love in the kindness shown to us by family and friends. As we receive comfort and encouragement from others, we are experiencing your care. Help us bear all our burdens patiently. Be the strength of your people, now and in difficult days to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

We speak to God as our Father as Jesus taught us. (Matthew 6)

Lord's Prayer

(Spoken in Unison)

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.

Holy Communion

Confession of Sins

(Spoken Responsively)

- M: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.
- C: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my



Prior to receiving holy communion, we confess our sins. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. "

(I John 1:9)

Christ said to his disciples, "If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven". The pastor speaks for God and announces God's forgiveness to those who made confession.



The pastor speaks the words which Jesus spoke when he instituted the Supper with his disciples in the Upper Room. With these words the bread and wine are consecrated, that is, set apart for God's use in this special meal.

This hymn reminds those who are about to commune that Jesus said, "For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:13) and that "in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

M: Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

Words of Institution

(Spoken by Minister)

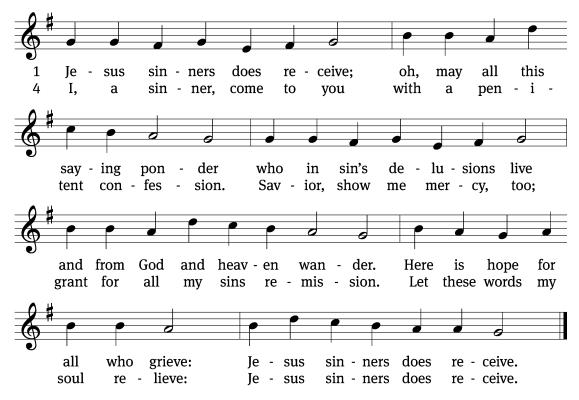
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Communion Canticle: Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CWH 654



Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756, abr. Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution of Sacrament

We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to today, you should speak with our pastor before the service. We would like to help you establish the unity which comes from a common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) before expressing that union together at the Lord's Table. It is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God's Word. Those who have established that connection as members of sister WELS or ELS congregations may register at the sanctuary entrance podium. Thank you for honoring our practice.

Distribution Hymn: For All the Saints

CWH 880

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold fight as the saints who nobly fought of old and win with them the victor's crown of gold.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph-song, and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west; soon, soon, to faithful warriors cometh rest; sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day: the saints triumphant rise in bright array; the King of glory passes on his way.

Alleluia! Alleluia!



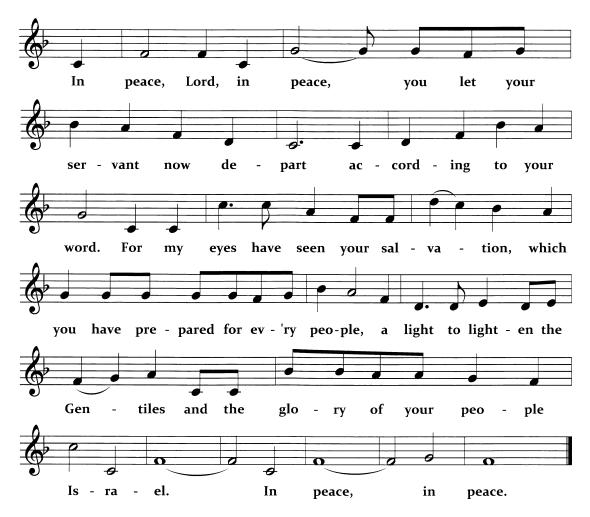
This is a hymn sung by the congregation during the distribution of the Lord's Supper. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt. Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text and tune: Public domain

The Nunc Dimittis
("now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon" (Luke 2: 29-32). Through God's Word and Sacrament, we too have seen Christ, the Messiah. Like aged Simeon who held the Christ-child in his arms as God had promised, we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

Song of Simeon Nunc Dimittis





The Aaronic Blessing is the blessing that Aaron and his sons were to speak over the people of Israel, recorded in Numbers 6:23–27. The pastor offers the same blessing to the congregation as they are about to conclude their worship.

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.



Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr. Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text and tune: Public domain

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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.

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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. 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.