

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Advent 2
Sunday, December 4, 2022

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

Blessed to be a member of



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.

Today's Worship Focus



Come, Lord Jesus!

Humanity wants a made-to-order Messiah. We want the Savior we want. The Jews wanted a political Messiah who would remove Roman oppression and reestablish the kingdom of Israel. The generic Christian of today wants a Messiah who is a good teacher and an inspiration for brotherly love. Even faithful Christians face the temptation of a made-to-order Messiah.

We want a Messiah who isn't bothered by the sin that keeps cropping up in our life, who doesn't call for total dedication but is fine if we only want a relaxed association with him. We want a Messiah who dispenses blessings liberally, to ensure that our life is blessed, as we would like to define it. That is not the Messiah who came. Jesus defies the expectations of Israel, the world, and us. Jesus reminds us that "blessed" is a term that he defines, and it begins with not rejecting the Messiah because he fails to meet our expectations. One proof that Jesus is the Messiah is that he fulfilled every prophecy. Therefore, blessed people respond to adverse circumstances with patient waiting and confidence that, at just the right time, their Messiah will fix all that is broken in their lives.

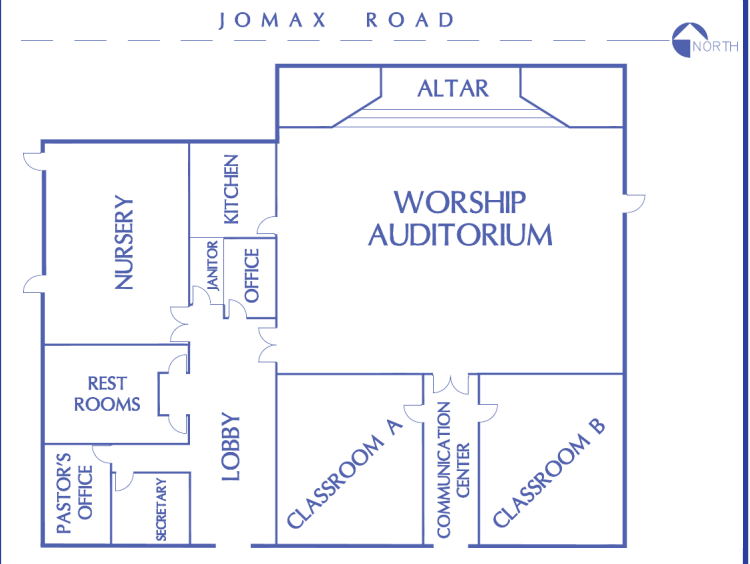
VISITOR INFORMATION

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

CHURCH MAP



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!

Advent: Lead Us to Your Light

Advent Gathering Rite

Choir sings refrain, Congregation repeats:



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark - ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

*Choir: Lord, we await your coming to our world;
bring us the gift of salvation.*

Congregation: Refrain

*Choir: Lord, you are hope and healing for our world;
come, now, and bring us your good news.*

Congregation: Refrain

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

M: The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom.

Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.



God's people long to gather together for strength from him and for mutual encouragement. The beginning of this worship service helps us prepare to celebrate Jesus' first coming, humbly born in a stable and second coming on judgment day returning as King of kings and Lord of lords.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)



We call upon God to be present with us. We worship the triune God, remembering our Baptism in His name.



The title of this prayer is "Kyrie" in Greek meaning "O Lord". It is a cry to the Lord for help and strength. We use this prayer to plead God's mercy and repent of our sins.



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.

M: May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

C: Amen.

Absolution

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Congregation Sings:



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark - ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Choir: *Come, O come, O come, Emmanuel;*

Come with us on earth here to dwell.

Congregation: Refrain

Choir: *Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber;*

banish the darkness of night.

Congregation: Refrain

Choir: *Child of the light and love beyond all telling,*

fill our hearts with wonder and praise.

Congregation: Refrain

The Word

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.

C: Amen.



The main thoughts of the day are collected or summarized in this short prayer.



Knowing what we do about the Messiah's coming kingdom, we want it now. God's encouragement, however, is for us to be patient.

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Advent Candle Lighting: My Soul in Stillness Waits

CWH 325



The Advent wreath reminds believers that our God grants new and everlasting life in Jesus. The wreath, a symbol of the victor, also reminds us of the crown of life that Jesus has won for us. The four candles in an Advent wreath emphasize the four week period of penitence and preparation during Advent, as we eagerly await the coming of the Light of the world to bring new life and hope.

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;

our thirst - y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us

Refrain

whole, be com-fort to our hearts.

M: We light two Advent candles now. The Bethl'em Candle kindles bright.

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

M: We think of little Bethlehem a mere two thousand years ago,

C: The busy streets, the crowded inn, and what the people didn't know:

M: That in a stable God was born and laid upon a bed of hay.

C: The virgin wrapped him, kept him warm: divinity in such a place!

M: We ponder in this quiet hour the wondrous miracle to come:

C: How nature kneels and time stands still to see the birth of God's own Son.



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text and tune: © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

The Children's Sermon

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

Choir

I Hear the Prophet Callin'



Jesus deals gently with those whose present circumstances lead them to doubt that he is the Messiah.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

“ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Hymn of the Day: Now Bless the God of Israel

CWH 973

Ensemble sings Vs. 1 & 2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3 & 4

*Now bless the God of Israel,
who comes in love and pow’r,
who raises from the royal house
deliv’rance in this hour.*

*Through holy prophets God has sworn
to free us from alarm,
to save us from the heavy hand
of all who wish us harm.*



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

Congregation sings:

2 Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from
3 In ten - der mer - cy God will send the Day - spring from on

fear, that we might serve in ho - li - ness and
high, our ris - ing sun, the light of life for

peace from year to year; and you, my child, shall
those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our

go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy, that
way to peace, that death shall reign no more. Sing

all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God Most High.
prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Text: Ruth Duck Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Sermon

**Come, Lord Jesus!
As Messiah**

Isaiah 35:1-10



¹The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴say to those with fearful hearts,

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).

“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.



*After hearing the word
of God, the worshiper
responds with this con-
fession of faith.*

*The Nicene Creed was
written in 325 A.D. to
address false ideas
about the divinity of
Jesus Christ. That ex-
plains 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: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CWH 322

Ensemble sings Vs. 1-2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3-4

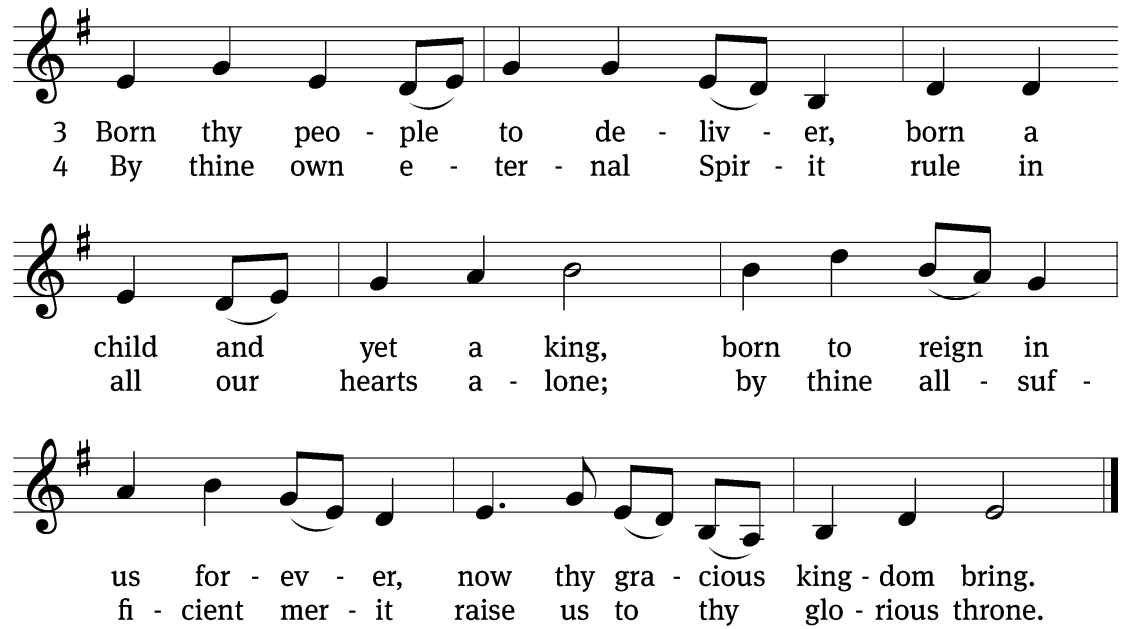
*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.*



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:



3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in
child and yet a king, born to reign in
all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -
us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker
Text and tune: Public domain



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".
(1 Timothy 2:1)

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

Offering and Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church

(Prayed by Minister)

The Lord's Prayer

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

The Preparation

(Spoken Responsively)

M: I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another,

C: so that there may be no divisions among you, and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Cor. 1:10)

M: Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ?

C: And is not the bread that we break, a participation in the body of Christ?

M: Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body:

C: for we all partake of the one loaf. (1 Cor 10:16-17)

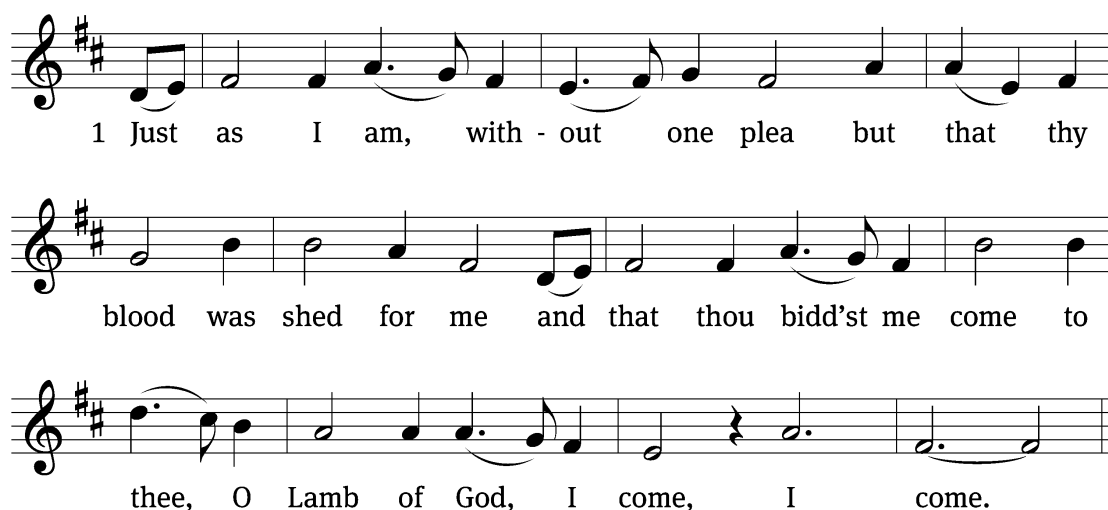
M: Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

C: A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. (1 Cor 11:26-28)

The responsive reading from 1 Corinthians reminds the communicants of the necessity of the unity of faith and preparation required as we receive the body and blood of Christ.

Communion Canticle: Just as I Am, without One Plea

CWH 814



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868
Text and tune: Public domain



As we approach the Lord's table, we are reminded that we are invited only because of the price Jesus paid on the cross.



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 of response perfectly describes the blessings of this Sacrament - forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Words of Institution

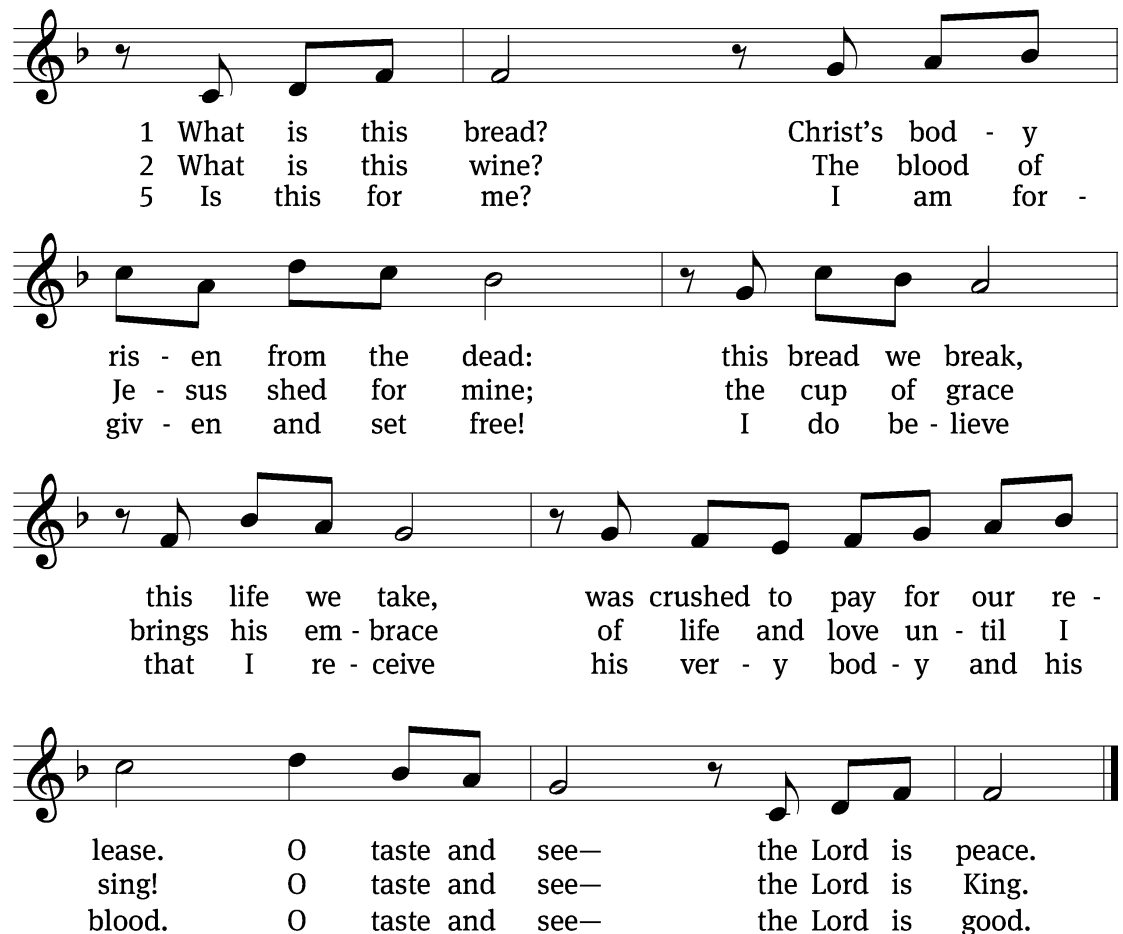
(Spoken by Minister)

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.

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Sung Response: What is this Bread

CWH 665



1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y
 2 What is this wine? The blood of
 5 Is this for me? I am for -

ris - en from the dead: this bread we break,
 Je - sus shed for mine; the cup of grace
 giv - en and set free! I do be - lieve

this life we take, was crushed to pay for our re -
 brings his em - brace of life and love un - til I
 that I re - ceive his ver - y bod - y and his

lease. O taste and see— the Lord is peace.
 sing! O taste and see— the Lord is King.
 blood. O taste and see— the Lord is good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, b. 1946 Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, b. 1951
 Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

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 estab-*

lished 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: Behold the Lamb

Ensemble sings verses; Congregation sings refrain

E: Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us And we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.

C: So we share in this bread of life, And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace Around the table of the King.

E: The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you; eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one.

C: So we share in this bread of life, And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace Around the table of the King.

E: The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you, drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

C: So we share in this bread of life, And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace Around the table of the King.

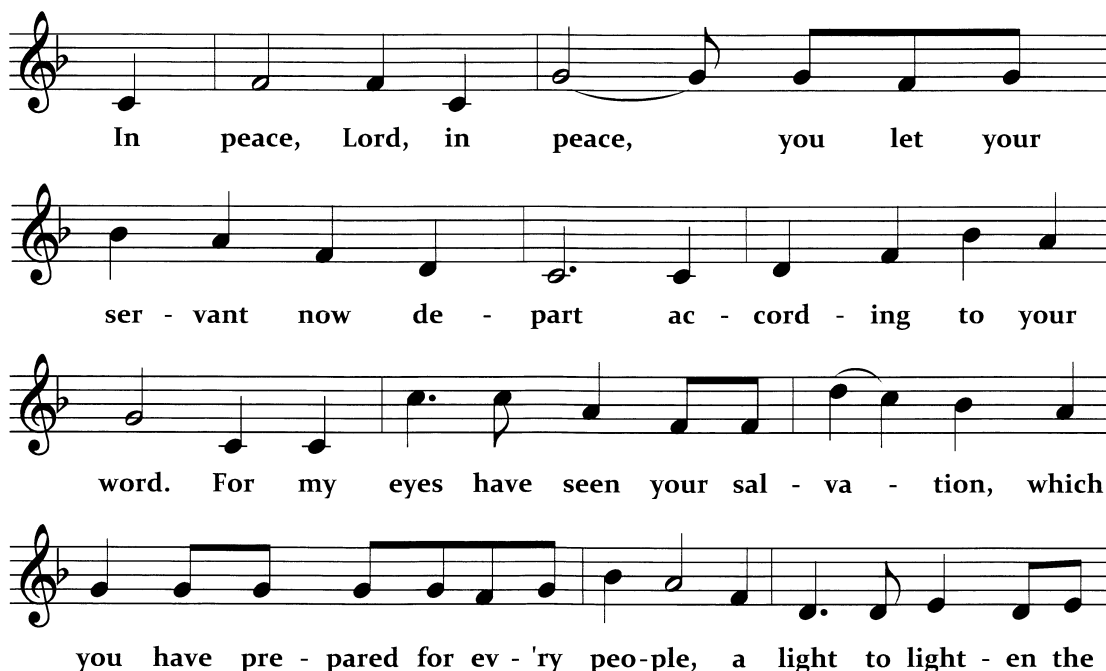
E: And so with thankfulness and faith we rise To respond, and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ As His body here on earth.

C: As we share in His suffering we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven Around the table of the King.



This is a hymn sung by the congregation during the distribution of the Lord's Supper.

Song of Simeon Nunc Dimittis



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.



Closing Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through Him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

Ensemble

Days of Elijah



*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.*

Acknowledgments

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Worship Volunteers	December 4th	December 11th	December 18th
Counters	Judy Sasse Susie Cornell	Joel Ditter Nancy Schirripa	Nick Nicholai Norm Voigt
Cleaners	Kelley/Grams	Ehlers/Martins Sterns	Coates Simkauskas
Communion Setup	Sharon Kull		Andrea
Ushers	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis	Jon Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson	Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger Kade Ehinger Bill Brooks
Sunday Refreshments	Ally Kelley Sharon Wilson	Mary Berggren Shannon Gullerud	Stacy Cornell Diana Piepenbrink
A/V	Shannon Gullerud Aaron Gullerud	Stacey Cornell Issac Peterson	Kelly Simpson Pedro Contreras

Advent by Candlelight

Advent by Candlelight will take place at Cross of Glory today, at 3:00 p.m. It is a special opportunity for ladies of the congregation (guests are welcomed) to gather in fellowship and to focus on Christ during the busy holiday season. This year's program theme is "Blessings on the Tree." There will also be a potluck-style appetizer and dessert table.

Mommy & Me

The next Mommy & Me meeting will be a "Happy Birthday Party for Jesus" on December 7 starting at 9:00 a.m.

We still need volunteers in order to host this ministry at Cross of Glory. So please save the date!

QR Code for Weekly Announcements



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.

Velta Larson, as she regains her strength

Gerry Ehlers, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and is undergoing treatments. The cancer is spreading, and he began intense treatments on May 10 for three months.

Pat Powell, as she recovers from back issues.

For the family of Gus Koutia in Lebanon, as they face a food shortage due to the interruption of imports from Ukraine.

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. 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.