

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



School Christmas Service

December 18, 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.

Worship Focus

Our Christmas Service chronicles the unfolding of God's plan of salvation as it was revealed in more and more detail throughout history. God has made certain in his Word that there is no question about his love for us and who our Savior from sin is. God clearly reveals the identity of Jesus throughout the Bible answering the question, "**Who Is He?**" He was promised to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; to the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah as the prophesied Messiah; and through the angels who shared the good news to the shepherds. The shepherds did not keep the good news to themselves. They shared the good news to whomever would listen. And Jesus us to do the same—to share the good news of Jesus with everyone in the world.

May God bless our worship this morning and may our Christmas be filled with the peace and joy that only Jesus can give us.

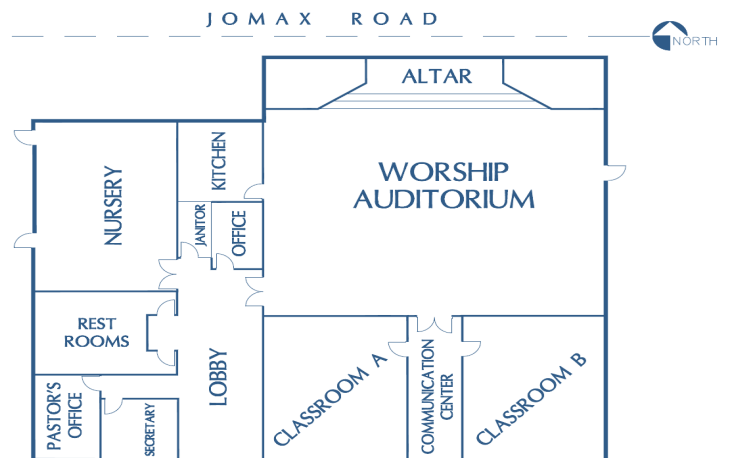
VISITOR INFORMATION

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today! We invite you to stay after the service to chat.

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!

Grade School Christmas Service: Who is He?



Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

CWH 354



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 24:7-10

Minister: Lift up your heads, you gates;

Children: *be lifted up, you ancient doors,*

Congregation: **that the King of glory may come in.**

Minister: Who is this King of glory?

Children: *The LORD strong and mighty,*

Congregation: the LORD mighty in battle.

Minister: Lift up your heads, you gates;

Children: *lift them up, you ancient doors,*

Congregation: that the King of glory may come in.

Minister: Who is he, this King of glory?

All: The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Introduction

Narrator: Wyatt Jones

Have you ever had a person tell you that someone is coming to visit, but doesn't reveal the visitor's name? Instead, you're given descriptions or clues to the visitor's identity. As long as the identity is unknown, one question is foremost in mind: Who is he or she? We will look at some of the descriptions, or clues, God gave to his people about a man who was to come into the world. His identity is important to us too. So we also ask, "Who is he?"

Who is He?

The Promised One

Narrators: Gloria Nyabate, Jett Woodworth, Joshua Biddinger

Recitations: Kindergarten-Grade 4

In Genesis chapter 1 we read, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day (*Genesis 1:31*).

God created a perfect world for humankind. And he put the crown of his creation—humans—in the Garden of Eden, where he had placed the Tree of Life. When they ate from this tree, it gave them eternal life. God intended for them to live in his perfect creation forever. But God also placed another named tree in the garden, and with it came a command.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die" (*Genesis 2:15-17*).

For a time, Adam and Eve obeyed this command. However, the devil came and led Adam and Eve into sin by enticing them to eat from the forbidden tree.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die'" (*Genesis 3:1-3*).

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some

and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it (*Genesis 3:4-6*).

Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command. And because of their sin, they would die. They had separated themselves from God, but God, out of great love for his creation, did not abandon them. He had a plan, already from eternity, that would save the human race from its sin. God promised to send a Savior.

"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" (*Genesis 3:15*).

Who is he? All we know is, God promised that when this man came, he would destroy the power of the devil.

Song: Joy Has Dawned

Grades 1-4

Soloist: Fiona Albrecht

*Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation—
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love— Jesus born of Mary.*

*Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
as the mighty Prince of life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'erable and helpless.*

*Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory.
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story:
gold—a king is born today; incense—God is with us;
myrrh—his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.*

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974
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Who is He?

The Prophesied One

Narration: Isaiah Koth, Paityn Ditter, Logan Pringle

Recitations: Grade 5-8

From God's description of the one who was to come, given in the Garden of Eden, believers could not yet answer exactly the question, "Who is he?" So throughout the Old Testament, God gave further descriptions concerning this Promised One. God inspired the prophet Micah to reveal where this man would be born.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (*Micah 5:2*).

Through Jeremiah and Isaiah, God foretold that this man would belong to the line of King David and would reign on his throne forever.

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior” (*Jeremiah 23:5,6*).

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. Of the greatness 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 (*Isaiah 9:6,7*).

Isaiah also reveals that this man would suffer for us.

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all (*Isaiah 53:4-6*).

Who is he? We still do not have a complete description of this man. However, these prophecies fill in greater detail about him and his mission.

Song: He Made a Way in a Manger

Jr. Choir

Soloists: Blythe Zeiler & Alex Simkauskas

Longing for a Savior, a hopeless world would wait.

Sin demanded justice at a price we could not pay.

But God displayed his mercy, the greatest gift of love.

When we could not reach heaven, heaven came to us.

Refrain:

He made a way in a manger, a way through the Son,

Messiah, the promised before time had begun.

For God so loved this world, though he knew what love would cost,

He made a way in a manger to make a way to the cross.

In Bethlehem a stable became a throne of grace

As God himself, our Savior, drew near to take our place.

His mother smiled in wonder as shepherds stood in awe.

The sacrifice of heaven lay sleeping in the straw. (Refrain)

He is the life who died our death

The precious Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. (Refrain)

Who is He?

The Newborn One

Narration: Isaiah Koth, Luke Pringle, Jared Biddinger, Titus Patterson

Recitation: Kindergarten-6th Grade

For thousands of years, God provided prophecy after prophecy about the one he had promised to send to save humankind from their sin. The world was now ready. Peace prevailed in the Roman Empire. God sent his angel to a virgin named Mary, a descendant of King David's family who was living in the lowly town of Nazareth, to give her some wonderful news.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end" (*Luke 1:26-33*).

Mary lived in Nazareth, about 90 miles from Bethlehem where the Promised One was to be born. But God used the Roman emperor to get Mary to Bethlehem so she would give birth to the Savior there, just as Micah had prophesied.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. 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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them (*Luke 2:1-7*).

Song: Away in a Manger

Kindergarten

*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.
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.*

Text (st. 1): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.
Text: Public domain

The one promised in the Garden of Eden finally came into this world! But how would people know that he had come? There were no news agencies to get the word out. The message could not be tweeted to the world in an instant. But God had a plan. He sent an angel to a small band of shepherds to announce the birth of the Savior.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (*Luke 2:8-12*).

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” 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.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger (*Luke 2:13-16*).

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

CWH 333



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908
Text and tune: Public domain

Who is He?

The One To Be Shared

Narrators: Jared Biddinger, Wyatt Jones

Recitations: Grade 5, All school

The Savior had come. And what wondrous news this was! The shepherds believed the message of the angel. So they left their sheep to see their Savior. They were so excited that the long-awaited one had finally come! And they could not help but tell everyone they met what they had witnessed.

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told (*Luke 2:17-20*).

Now we have the answer to the question “Who is he?” He is Jesus—Christ the Lord come to save us from our sins. That is good news! Like the shepherds, we want to share that news with others so that they also may have the peace the angel spoke of—peace between God and sinners. Jesus himself tells us how, and what, we are to share.

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (*Matthew 28:19,20*).

Song: Angels We Have Heard on High

Grades 5-8

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.*

Refrain:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav’nly song? (Refrain)*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)*



Offering and Offering Prayer

(Prayed by Minister)

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.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(Spoken by All)

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.

Song: Who is He?

All School

Soloists: Joshua Biddinger, Kingsley Cruz, Natalia Ghiurau
Everly Nichols, Jaxson Wirtjes

Percussion: Titus Patterson and Wyatt Jones

Who is he that brings us here on the same night ev'ry year?

Who is he we give our praise all our nights and all our days?

Refrain:

'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! 'Tis the Lord, the King of glory!

At his feet we humbly fall, crown him, crown him, Lord of all!

Who is he whom at the Fall God has pledged to save us all?

Who will crush the serpent's head and remove all fear and dread? (Refrain)

Who is he whom men of old by their prophecies foretold?

Who will set all people free as he dies upon the tree? (Refrain)

Who is he of whom hosts sing, "Glory to the newborn King?"

Who is he, this newborn one, shepherds rush to look upon? (Refrain)

Who is he, this babe so small, yet the Savior of us all?

Who is he who tells us, "Go!" that the world his name may know? (Refrain)

Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House

Blessing

(Spoken by Minister)

Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Congregation: Amen!

Hymn: Joy to the World

CWH 353



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Acknowledgments

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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.