

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Christmas Day

December 25, 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



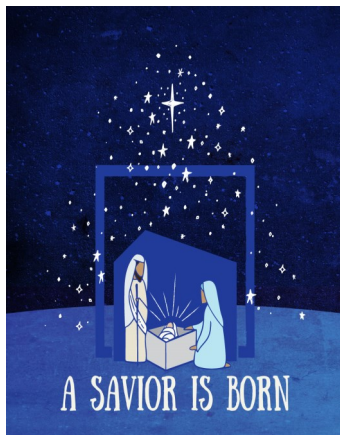
God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

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



For centuries on Christmas Day the Church has read chapter one of St. John's Gospel. There, in just a few simple words, Scripture describes the indescribable: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). The word God had spoken in the Garden, promising to send a Savior who was part of mankind, came true. God himself became flesh and blood—to be born under law, to suffer, and to die that he might redeem us. The Greek word translated "made his dwelling" can also be translated "pitched his tent." That word describes a temporary dwelling place. God came into our broken world to dwell for a time, so that one day we might go to God's perfect home and dwell for all eternity. Unlike those Christmas Eve shepherds, we cannot see Christ with our eyes. Yet still he dwells among us. For he is the Word made flesh. As we listen to the Word today, we truly are hearing the voice of Christ. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we partake of his true body and blood. In Word and sacrament, still today, our Savior dwells among us, feeding our faith, preparing us for our true home.

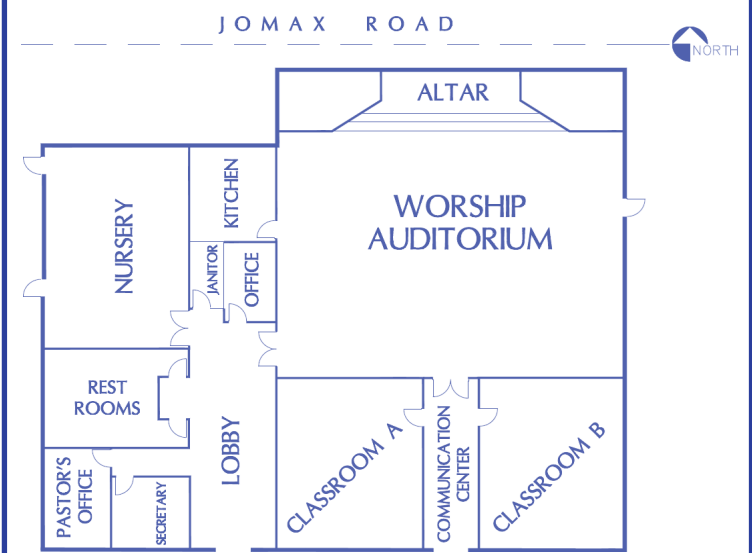
VISITOR INFORMATION

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



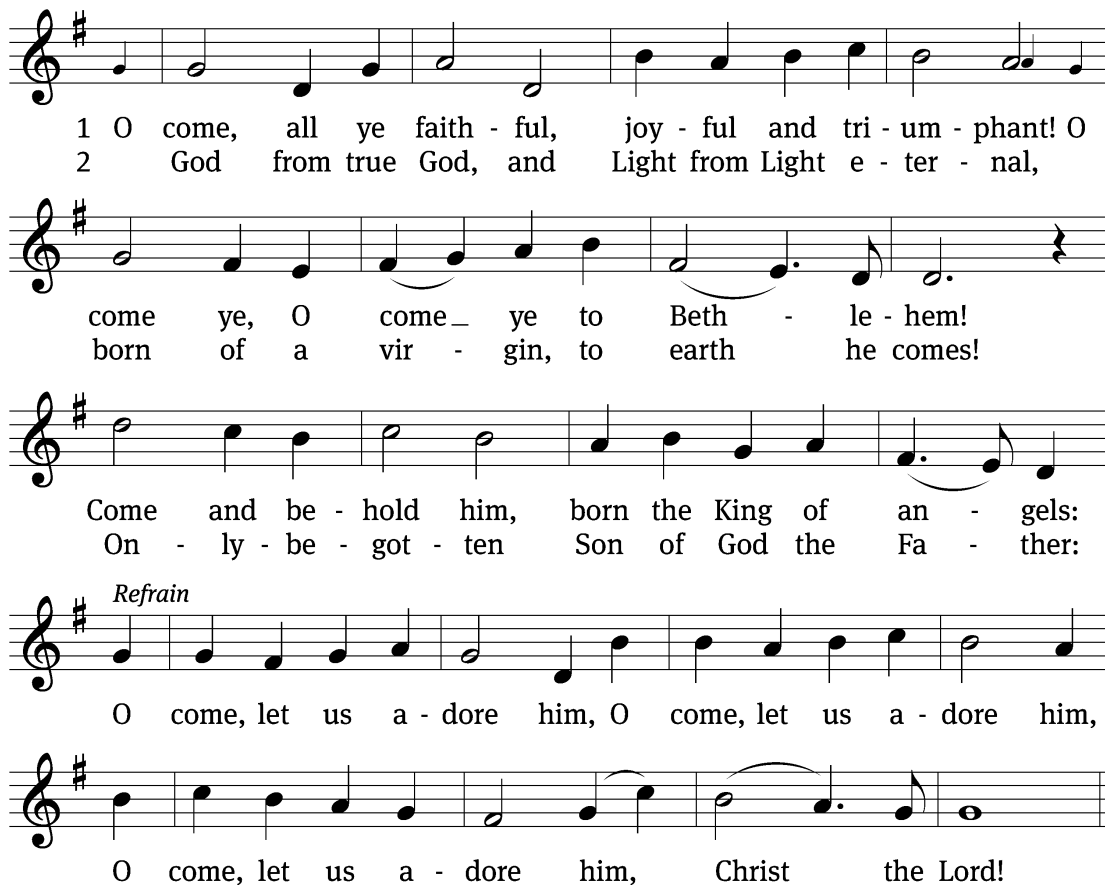
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- 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!

The Festival of the Nativity

Opening 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,

come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:

Refrain

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

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



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."

Dialogue of Praise for Christmas

(Spoken Responsively)

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

C: And also with you.

M: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

C : and the Word was God.

M: He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made;

C: without him nothing was made that has been made.

M: In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

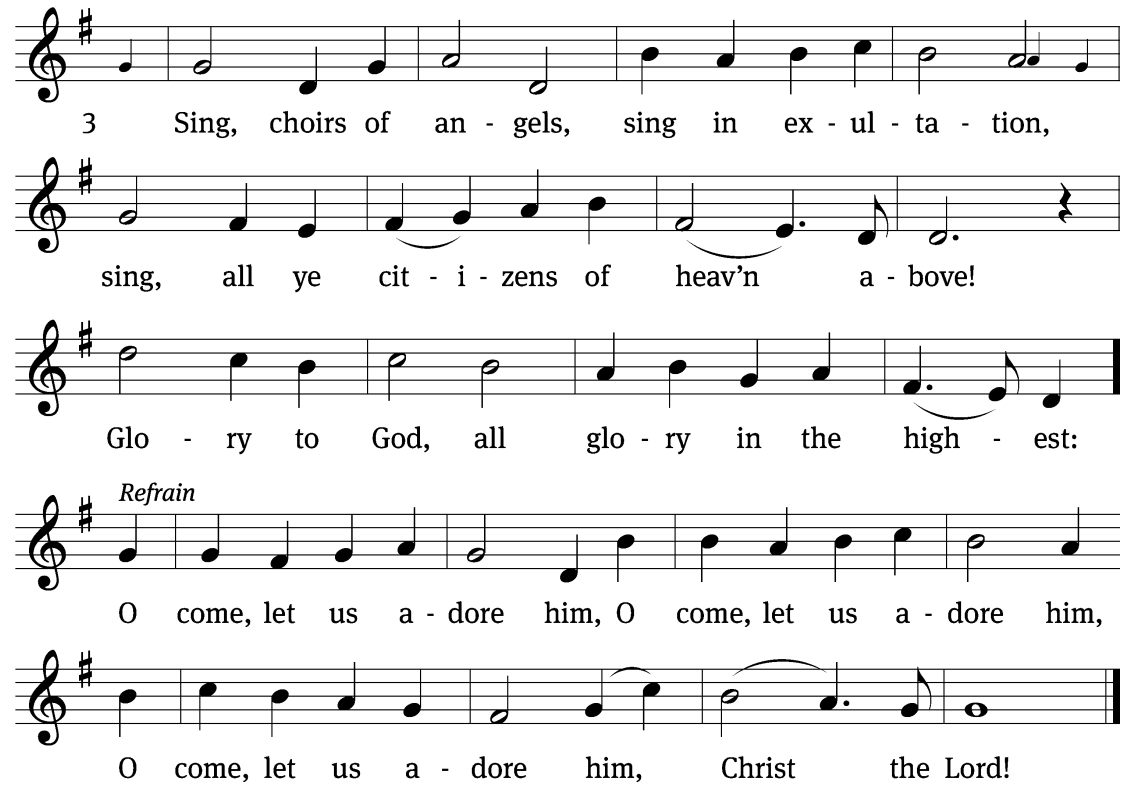
M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Following the Christmas greeting, we speak powerful words of John 1, which illuminates the reason for our Christmas joy. God in his grace sent his Son, true God and true man, to bring light to our world dark with sin, to bring life to the world dead in sin.

Congregation sings:



3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Refrain
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



*"If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our
sins and purify us from
all unrighteousness. "*

Confession

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. By right, we should have nothing to sing about. We do not deserve God's love. He created humankind in his perfect image to live with him in peace forever. But Adam and Eve sinned against him, and we have sinned against him no less than they.

C: We confess our sins, O Lord.

M: We are embarrassed to think of our sins here. Our hearts are filled with love for you, but we confess we have often loved others more than you. Our eyes behold your glory, but we confess we have lusted for what you forbid. Our lips praise you, but we confess we have spoken evil again and again.

C: We deplore our sins, O Lord.

M: They have only gained us trouble. They have not given us the happiness they promised.

C: For the sake of Jesus, forgive us for sinning against you, O Lord.

M: Remind us that Christ came into the world to free us from the guilt of sin. Proclaim to us that his life and death cover our sins. Keep us from being attracted to sin. Spare us from being enslaved by sin. Help us make up for the sins we commit against one another.

C: Deliver us from sin's power, O Lord.

Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Glory to God in the highest! In love that astounds us, the eternal God sent his one and only Son to live among us, to obey as we could not, and to suffer what we deserved. In Christ there is indeed peace on earth. In him, God extends his good will to all people. On that first Christmas he gave his only Son and laid him in the manger to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Because of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says: In Christ, your sins are forgiven!

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

M: To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory,

C: the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Congregation sings:

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;
Je - sus, to thee — be all glo - ry giv'n!
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:
Refrain
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

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

(Spoken Responsively)

M: For the blessed conviction that you are the Son of God, and that you were born in Bethlehem to keep the Law of God perfectly in our place and to give your life into death for our redemption, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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 title of this prayer is "Kyrie" in Greek meaning "O Lord". It is a cry to the Lord for help and strength.

M: For the determination to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness to all the world and to administer the Sacraments faithfully according to your institution, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For your blessing on us as a fellowship of believers united in you and eager to do your will, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful Lord, open our eyes to behold your glory as the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

Song of Praise: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CWH 350



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847 Text and tune: Public domain



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

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

(Sung Response: CWH 338)

M: On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (*Isaiah 9:2*)

Congregation sings:



Text: Text: English, abr. Tune: English Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

- ⁷How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"
- ⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.
- ⁹Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
- ¹⁰The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.



The Christ Candle represents the light that the Son brought into the world when he was born a little baby, God in the flesh.



The prophet foretold that the Lord would dwell among us, laying bare his arm, rolling up his sleeves and doing what was necessary to bring the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.

Refrain



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



Refrain

be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain
Tune: African American spiritual Text and tune: Public domain



*In the past God sent
angels and prophets as
messengers to his peo-
ple. In these latter days,
God speaks to us
through his Son who
came to dwell among
us.*

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1–9

¹In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

⁷In speaking of the angels he says,

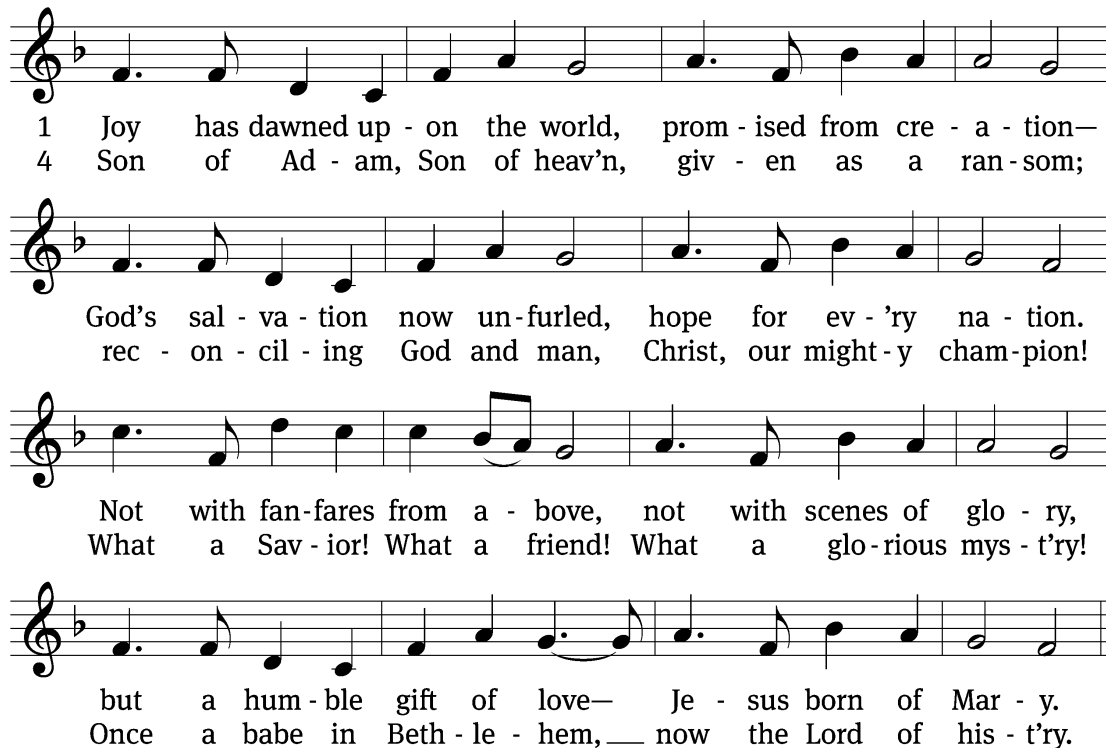
“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
 a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
 therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
 by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

Song of Praise: Joy Has Dawned

CWH 352



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
 4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;
 God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
 rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!
 Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
 What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!
 but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
 Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, — now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974
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The Children's Sermon

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

Gospel

John 1:1–14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become



*The Word became flesh
 and made his dwelling
 among us.*

children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn of the Day: Of the Father's Love Begotten

CWH 358



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



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets



he the source, the end - ing he,
bore the Sav - ior of our race,
prom - ised in their faith - ful word.



of the things that are, that have been,
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.

Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain



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).

Sermon

A Savior is Born to Dwell Among Us

Isaiah 52:7–10

4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

and ex - tol our God and King.
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,

Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion

ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; (st. 4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.
 Tune: plainsong, 13th cent. Text and tune: Public domain



For our confession of faith, we speak portions of the Athanasian Creed that focus on the truth that Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person as so purely and succinctly stated in John 1.

Confession of Faith

Portions of the Athanasian Creed

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith. Now this is the true Christian faith:

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;

And though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one: one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh is one human being, so God and man is one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the

Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

This is the true Christian faith.



Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

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

Christmas Prayer

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that the "Word made flesh" gives us his very own body and blood for our salvation! He comes to us today in this sacrament to make his dwelling among us.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child is our ever-present Redeemer from sin.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

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)

The Lord's Prayer

(Sung to the Tune of CWH340)

Today, we sing this hymn which reminds us of the words Jesus taught us to pray. (Matthew 6)

1. Our Fath - er in hea - ven, all praise to your
2. The bread that we yearn for pro - vide us each
3. For yours is the king - dom; o'er all things you

name! Your king - dom a - mong us, your will done the
day; As we for - give oth - ers, our sins take a -
reign. And yours is the pow - er; all things you main -

same By mor - tals and an - gels. Come, Lord, reign a -
way; In times of temp - ta - tion, to lead us be
tain. To you be the glo - ry, re - sound - ing a -

lone; Oh, hear us and bless us from hea - ven's high throne.
near; From e - vil de - liv - er your child - ren most dear.
gain From all of cre - a - tion, for - ev - er! A - men.



This blessing embodies the Christmas joy we experience knowing the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation through Christ who dwelt among us.

Blessing

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.

C: Amen.

Closing 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
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
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
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.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Merry
Christmas
and happy new year

From the Staff at Cross Of
Glory



New Years Day Service

Please join us on Sunday January 1st at 9:00 am and start off the New Year by praising and thanking God for all of the blessings that He has given us over the past year.

Member Announcements

If you'd like to post an announcement in the newsletter, please send it to our church secretary at church.secretary@crossofglory.org.

Weekly QR Code

Please use this QR Code for all other announcements



Worship Volunteers	December 25th	January 1st	January 8th
Counters	Bill Brooks Harry Novak	Judy Sasse Susie Cornell	Joel Ditter Nancy Schirripa
Cleaners	Patterson	Koutia Piepenbrink	Gullerud
Communion Setup		Dawn	
Ushers	Cody Hall Joel Ditter	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson Grant Stern	Pedro Contreras Sabrina Ebel Tanner Plitzuweit Michael Radue
Sunday Refreshments		Rachel Plitzuweit LuAnn Blanshan	Tracy Ditter Nicole Brown
A/V		Titus Patterson Isaac Patterson	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia

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 in May.

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.