

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Lent 3
Sunday, March 12, 2023

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

1011 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



WATER FOR THE THIRSTY A person can survive between one and two months without food. But a person can survive only two to three days without water. Water is one of our greatest needs. Research shows that even slight dehydration will adversely affect your mood, memory, and motor coordination.

Become seriously dehydrated, and life ends quickly. This helps us understand what Scripture means when it says things like, "My soul thirsts for God" (Psalm 42:2). If one is separated from God, he is adversely affected. If he remains separated from God, he will die an agonizing eternal death. Not all admit it; yet it remains true for all. Everyone has a deep spiritual thirst. In our heart of hearts, we all long for everlasting life. Unbelievers try to satisfy that deep thirst with worldly things, a strategy doomed for failure. Believers look to the One who has promised, "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst." Jesus meets our greatest needs. He alone possesses the water that satisfies those who are spiritually parched. He alone grants eternal life.

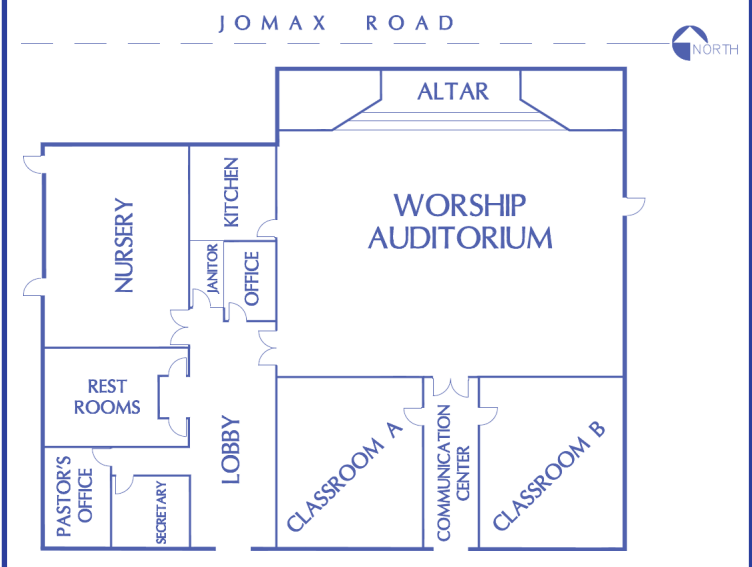
VISITOR INFORMATION

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!

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn: What Wondrous Love Is This

CWH 526



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.”

(Colossians 3:16)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the



this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse
down be-neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown
Lamb, who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme,



for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
I will sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Lynchburg, 1811, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker
Text and tune: Public domain

Greeting

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and his Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.



The greeting used by St. Paul perfectly summarizes Christianity.

Confession and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.



*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
(1 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.



This hymn of praise gives the congregation the opportunity to praise God and express joy because Jesus is our victorious Savior.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

(Spoken by Minister; Sung response by Congregation)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

O taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take
 ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it
 stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -
 tin - ues for - ev - er. O taste and see that the
 Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Text: n/a

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949



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

Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



The children of Israel wanted to stone Moses because they were thirsty. So God, in his grace, gave this underserving people water from a stone.

¹The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"

³But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Psalm

Psalm 95C



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."

1 Come, let us praise the LORD, with joy our God ac -
 3 In wor - ship bow the knee, our glo - rious God con -
 4 Come, hear his voice to - day, re - ceive what love im -

claim, his great - ness tell a - broad and bless his
 fess; the great Cre - a - tor, he, the LORD our
 parts; his ho - ly will o - bey and hard - en

sav - ing name. Lift high your songs be -
 Right - eous - ness. He reigns un - seen: his
 not your hearts. His ways are best and

fore his throne to whom a - lone all praise be - longs.
 flock he feeds and gent - ly leads in pas - tures green.
 lead at last, all trou - bles past, to per - fect rest.



We were like people dying of thirst who were powerless to help themselves. But God's love has been poured out into our hearts like living water.



A verse from the holy scriptures is usually spoken in preparation for the reading of the Gospel which is read as the second reading or as part of the sermon.



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

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."

Sermon Hymn: Living Waters

The Soloist sings Vs. 1-2
and the Congregation joins for Vs.3-4

*Are you thirsty? Are you empty? Come and drink these living waters;
tired and broken; peace unspoken; rest beside these living waters.*

*Christ is calling; find refreshing; at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down; all the old gone; rise up in these living waters.*

Refrain:

**There's a river that flows with mercy and love;
bringing joy to the city of our God. There our hope is secure;
do not fear anymore; praise the Lord of living waters.**

**Spirit moving; mercy washing; healing in these living waters.
Lead your children; to the shore line; life is in these living waters.
(Refrain)**

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty? Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness; vast and boundless Christ, he is our living waters.
(Refrain)**

⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."



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).



Apostles' Creed

(Spoken in Unison)

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

The Apostles' Creed, developed over hundreds of years in the early Christian church, is a brief and simple statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles. Christians used it to tell others what they believed and also to confess their faith with one another as they met for worship.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



Song of the Season: Lamb of God

CWH 403

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.

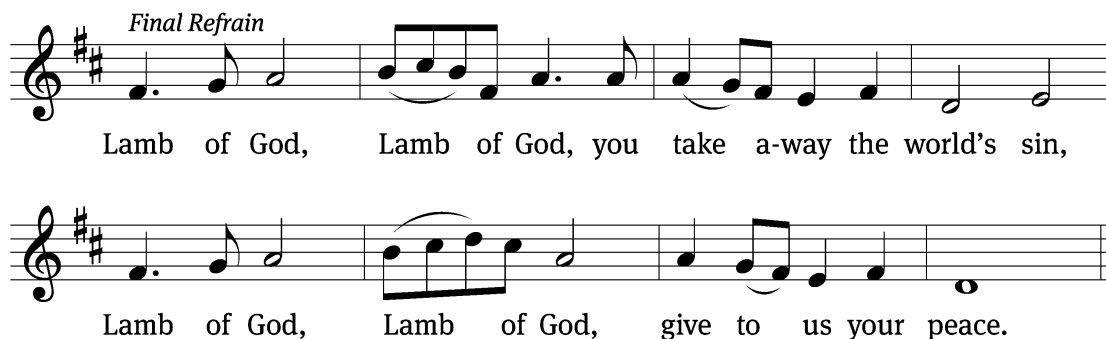
Refrain

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the world's sin,
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, have mer-cy up-on us.

Verses

1 As high as the heav'ns are o-ver the earth, so great is your
2 A Fa-ther's heart you turn to us; you hear us
love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so
when we call. Now, Lord, in com-pas-sion, lend your ear; you
far have you re-moved our sin.
know our needs, O hear our prayer.

Refrain
Final Refrain



Text: Psalm 103:11-13, para. Kenneth T. Kosche, b. 1947; traditional Agnus Dei, alt.
Tune: Kenneth T. Kosche, b. 1947
Text and tune: © 1993 Art Masters Studios, Inc., admin. Lorenz Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716



The Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

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

Prayer of the Church

(Spoken by Minister)

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

(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.



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

Closing Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



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

(Spoken by Minister)

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.

Closing Hymn: Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

CWH 857



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I thro' grace a



of our God; he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed you
ter - nal love, well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters and all
mem - ber am, let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for his own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,
fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
glo - ry in your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



what can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the
all their boast - ed pomp and show; sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, you may smile at all your foes.
Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Tune: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Worship Volunteers	March 12th	March 19th	March 26th
Counters	Nick Nicholai Norm Voigt	Bill Brooks Harry Novak	Judy Sasse Susie Cornell
Cleaners	Kelly Grams	Martins Sterns	Coates Simkauskas
Communion Setup		Shannon	
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	Stacy Cornell Diana Piepenbrink	Rachel Plitzuweit Jennifer Paul	Tracy Ditter Nicole Brown
A/V	Titus Patterson Issac Patterson	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Stacy Cornell Aaron Gullerud

WinGS Correction

The weekly newsletter has the incorrect date for the next meeting, it will be Saturday March 25th, at 9:00 a.m. at church.

Weekly News QR Code

Please use the QR Code for the Weekly Newsletter. If you'd like to post an announcement in the church newsletter, please send it to our church secretary at church.secretary@crossofglory.org



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.

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.