

# Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



**Midweek Lent 4**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

623-224-8839 ♦ [www.crossofglory.org](http://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.*

Worship Focus

## HIS FINAL STEPS

In the 40 days of Lent, along with many other Christians throughout the world, we consider the season of Lent to be important because it provides the opportunity—often through special, midweek worship services—to focus attention on the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. It is a time to receive, reflect and be comforted. It is our opportunity to soak in the Passion History as it's read and hear the old, old story that gives us so much peace. Rejoice that God loved you enough to do it all to win your salvation.

During this season of Lent, we will walk with our Savior on the final steps of his journey to the cross. How humbling and comforting to learn that Jesus knew exactly what lay ahead. Yet Jesus took his final steps to the cross for you and for me!

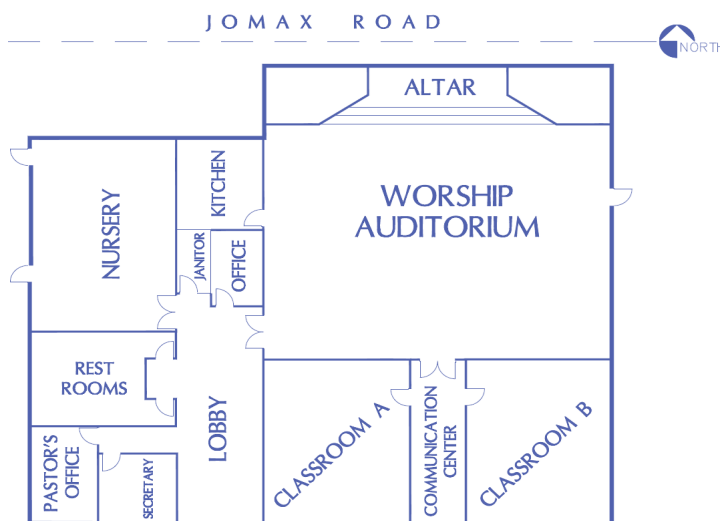
## VISITOR INFORMATION

**New to Cross of Glory?** We are so glad you joined us today!

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.

## Opening Hymn: Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

CWH 535



1 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, in the dawn-ing of the King,  
2 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, he the per - fect Son of Man;  
3 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, Christ the Lord up - on the tree;



he the theme of heav-en's prais - es, robed in frail hu-man-i - ty.  
in his liv - ing, in his suf - f'ring nev - er trace nor stain of sin.  
in the stead of ru - ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic - to - ry.



In our long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has come.  
See the true and bet - ter Ad - am, come to save the hell-bound man.  
See the price of our re-demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan un - fold,



Look to Christ, who con-de-scent-ed, took on flesh to ran-som us.  
Christ the great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law; in him we stand.  
bring-ing man - y sons to glo - ry, grace un - mea-sured, love un - told.

Text: Michael Bleeker, b. 1977; Matt Papa, b. 1983; Matt Boswell, b. 1979

Tune: Michael Bleeker, b. 1977; Matt Papa, b. 1983; Matt Boswell, b. 1979

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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)

## Confession of Sins and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

C: we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,  
and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

M: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiv-  
en. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in  
newness of life.

C: Amen.



"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 disci-  
ples, "If you forgive  
anyone his sins, they  
are forgiven". The pas-  
tor speaks for God and  
announces God's for-  
giveness to those who  
made confession.



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

## Psalm

Psalm 51D  
Sung in Unison

1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I  
 2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my  
 4 Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by your wrath and

rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,  
 soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst your grace  
 judg - ment just, let my con - trite heart re - joice

blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me  
 and pro - voked you to your face; I con - fess your  
 and in glad - ness hear your voice; from my sins, O

pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.  
 judg - ment just, speech - less, in your mer - cy trust.  
 hide your face, blot them out in bound - less grace.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead  
 Text and tune: Public domain



The main thought of the psalm are collected or summarized in this short prayer.

## Psalm Prayer

**M:** Lord, we bow down to you in thankful praise. You have made your ways known to both lowly and great on the earth. You have not abandoned the work of your hands, but instead you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## Passion History

The Trial Before Pilate



Each week during the midweek Lent services, the minister reads from the Bible a portion of Jesus' Passion history. The readings take us through the events of Holy Week—from Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his crucifixion on the cross.



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



1 From depths of woe, Lord God, I cry; O hear my  
3 Thus an - y mer - it of my own is void and  
5 Al - though our sin is great in - deed, the grace of



hum - ble plead - ing! Lis - ten in mer - cy to my sigh,  
un - a - vail - ing; I trust in God and God a - lone,  
God is great - er; no loss we suf - fer can ex - ceed



my prayer for res - cue heed - ing! Were you, O  
he is my hope un - fail - ing. Since he is  
the help of our Cre - a - tor. Our shep - herd



Lord, to fix your gaze on our re - bel - lious,  
good, I soon will see the com - fort he has  
good and true is he, who will at last his



sin - ful ways, then who could stand be - fore you?  
prom - ised me; I wait for its ar - ri - val.  
peo - ple free from all their sin and sor - row.

Text: tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, alt.

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## Sermon

## His Final Steps Led to a Tomb

John 11

*A tomb emptied for us and our faith.*

*A tomb emptied for God's plan to be finished.*



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).



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)

## The Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

### Prayer

(Read Responsively)

M: Gracious Lord, according to your will and promise,

**C: you sent your Son into our world to atone for sin and restore eternal life.**

M: You planned his path to the cross,

**C: and he followed it perfectly.**

M: He confronted the blindness of unbelief, the confusion of doubt, and the hurt of death

**C: but was not deterred as he proclaimed your kingdom to the least, the last, and the lost.**

M: As we hear and contemplate the holy record of our Savior's passion and death,

**C: use the sharp message of the law to empty us of pride and self-reliance.**

M: Humble us as we view the Savior in his humility,

**C: remembering and believing that he endured the cross so we might be freed from its horror.**

M: In his suffering show us our healing,

**C: in his grief show us our joy,**

M: and in his death show us our life.

**C: Hear our prayers, Lord, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

(Prayed 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.

## Blessing

(Spoken by Minister)



*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.*

**M:** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.

**C:** May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

CWH 789



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night for all the bless - ings  
2 Teach me to live that I may dread the grave as lit - tle  
3 When in the night I sleep - less lie, my soul with heav'n - ly



of the light. Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, be - neath thine  
as my bed. Teach me to die that so I may rise glo - rious  
thoughts sup - ply; let no ill dreams dis - turb my rest, no pow'rs of



own al - mighty wings. For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
at the awe - full day. Oh, may my soul on thee re - pose  
dark - ness me dis - tress. Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;



the ill that I this day have done, that with the world, my -  
and may sweet sleep mine eye - lids close, sleep that shall me more  
praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



self, and thee I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
vig - 'rous make to serve my God when I a - wake.  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.  
Tune: Charles F. Gounod, 1818–1893, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

### 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 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.