

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Lent 5
Sunday, March 26, 2023

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



LIFE FOR THE DEAD The author and poet George Eliot once wrote, "Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them." The Roman philosopher Cicero said much the same. He wrote, "The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living." What second rate comfort! But that is the best the unbelieving world can offer—the sappy sentiment that our dead loved ones somehow "live on" in our memories.

It is a sad way to attempt to cope as you walk through the cemetery. Jesus provides a better solution to death. He promises life. One day Jesus will give your faithful dead back to you—to love and to laugh and to hug and to dance. Body and soul, living and walking in the new heaven and the new earth. How do we know Jesus can and will keep that promise? Because the Son of God descended into the darkness of death himself and emerged on Easter Sunday as the first fruit of the resurrection of all God's people. In the creed we confess, "I believe in the resurrection of the body." Yet again, Jesus satisfies our greatest needs.

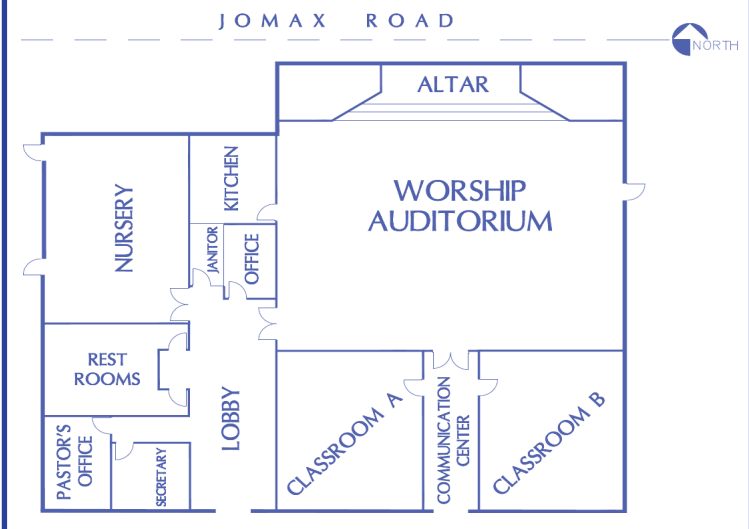
VISITOR INFORMATION

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



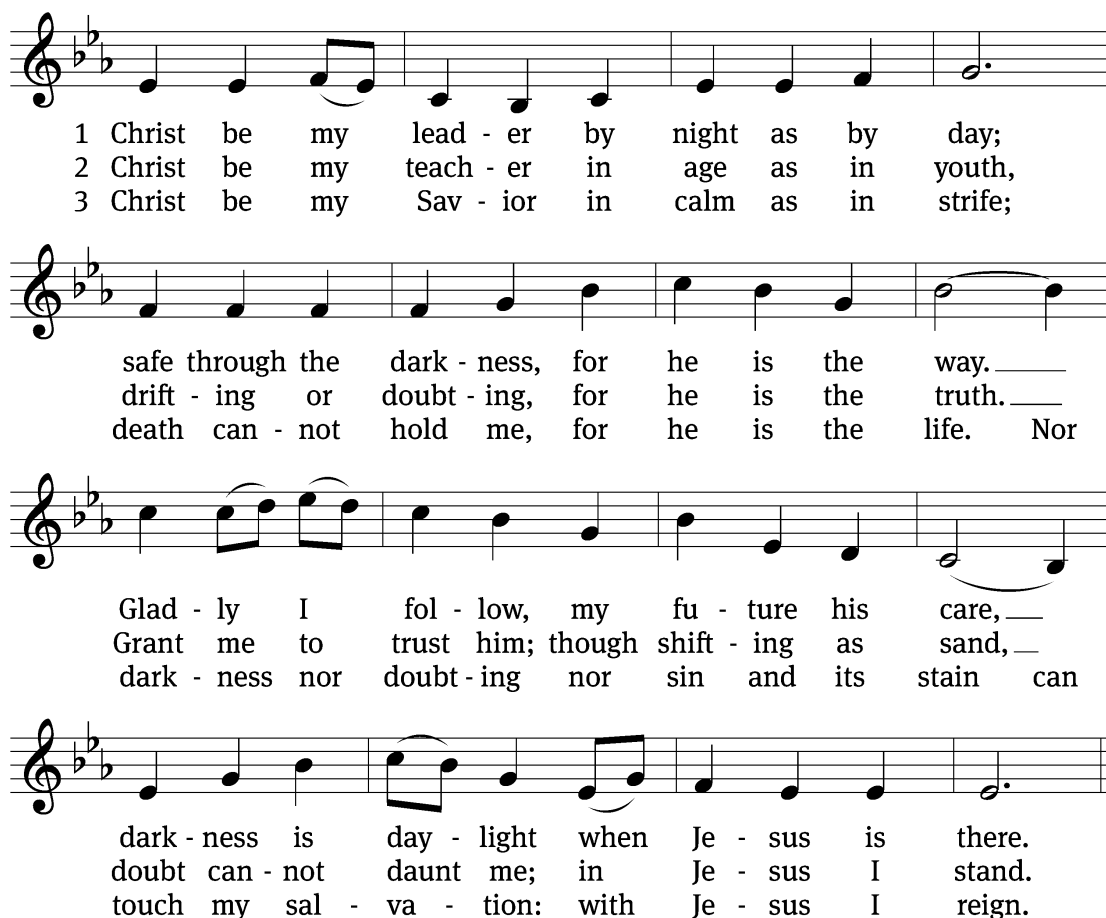
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- 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!

The Service

Opening Hymn: Christ Be My Leader

CWH 518



1 Christ be my lead - er by night as by day;
2 Christ be my teach - er in age as in youth,
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife;

safe through the dark - ness, for he is the way.
drift - ing or doubt - ing, for he is the truth.
death can - not hold me, for he is the life. Nor

Glad - ly I fol - low, my fu - ture his care,
Grant me to trust him; though shift - ing as sand,
dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor sin and its stain can

dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 Tune: Irish
Text: © 1964, ren. 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: Public domain



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)



We call upon God to be
present with us. We
worship the triune God,
remembering our bap-
tism in his name.

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession

(Spoken Responsively)

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;



“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.



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



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

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.**

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

(Spoken Responsively)

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

The Word

Prayer of the Day

M: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



God wants us to know that whoever believes in him will live, even though he dies. He enables the prophet Elisha to prove that to a grieving mother.

¹⁷But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

¹⁸The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers.

¹⁹He said to his father, "My head! My head!"

His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." ²⁰After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. ²¹She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.

²²She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return."

²³"Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath."

"That's all right," she said.

²⁴She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." ²⁵So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite!" ²⁶Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?' "

"Everything is all right," she said.

²⁷When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why."

²⁸"Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes'?"

²⁹Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don't greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."

³⁰But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.

³¹Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened."

³²When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. ³³He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. ³⁴Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm. ³⁵Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

³⁶Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." ³⁷She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

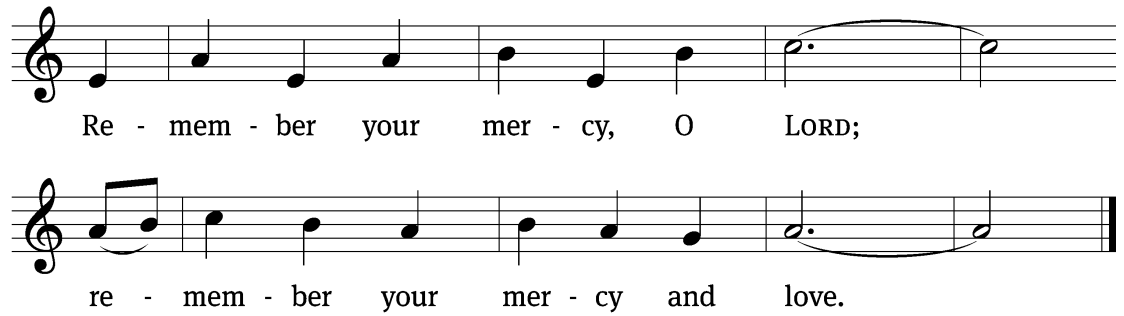


The Book of Psalms was the Old Testament hymnbook, prayer and liturgy book. It was used by worshipers at the temple. Many of the Psalms are the basis for our hymns and part of our liturgy is taken from the Psalms. The word "Psalm" comes from the Greek and means "a song sung to the accompaniment of a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

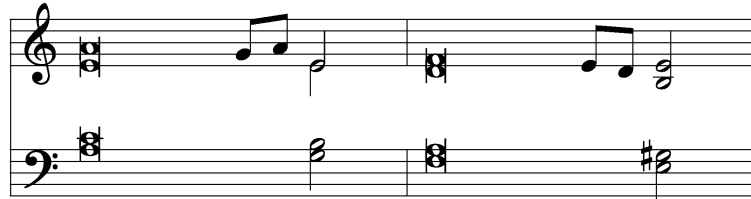
Psalm of the Day

Psalm 130B

Refrain



Tone



Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;

Lord, / hear my voice.

Let your ears be at- / tentive

to my cry for / mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you.

Refrain

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,

and in his word I / put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,

more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,

for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel

from / all their sins.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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The Children's Sermon

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



The Father promises to raise his children from the dead and make them heirs of everlasting glory.

¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹²Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die.



A verse from the Holy Scriptures is usually spoken to capture the theme of the service.

Hymn of the Day: When in the Hour of Utmost Need

CWH 723



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

1 When in the hour of ut - most need we know not
 2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone that we may
 3 For you have prom - ised, Lord, to heed your chil - dren's
 4 And so we come, O God, to - day and all our

where to look for aid, when days and nights of
 meet be - fore your throne; to you, O faith - ful
 cries in time of need through him whose name a -
 woes be - fore you lay; be with us in our

anx - ious thought no help or coun - sel yet have brought,
 God, we cry for res - cue in our mis - er - y.
 lone is great, our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.
 an - guish still, free us at last from ev - 'ry ill,

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Paul Eber, 1511–1569, abr. Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561
 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).



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.

Sermon

Our Greatest Needs: Life for the Dead

John 11:17–27,38–45

¹⁷On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

³⁸Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹“Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

⁴⁵Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Apostles' Creed

(Spoken in Unison)

**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: God Was There on Calvary

CWH 433



1 God was there on Cal - va - ry, God the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 2 All the world on Cal - va - ry cru - ci - fied the Prince of life,
 3 Sin was there on Cal - va - ry, all the sins of ev - 'ry - one,
 4 Love was there on Cal - va - ry, stream - ing from the heart of God,



dy - ing that the world might live, there on Cal - va - ry.
 pierced the hands of God's own Son, there on Cal - va - ry.
 laid up - on God's sin - less Lamb there on Cal - va - ry.
 reach - ing out for ev - 'ry - one there on Cal - va - ry.

Life was there on Calvary,
 flowing from his wounded side,
 spent that death itself might die
 there on Calvary.

We were there on Calvary;
 we were pardoned, saved, set free,
 saved to live eternally—
 blessed Calvary!

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993 Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993
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Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)



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.



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 **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.*

Prayer of the Church

(Spoken by Minister)

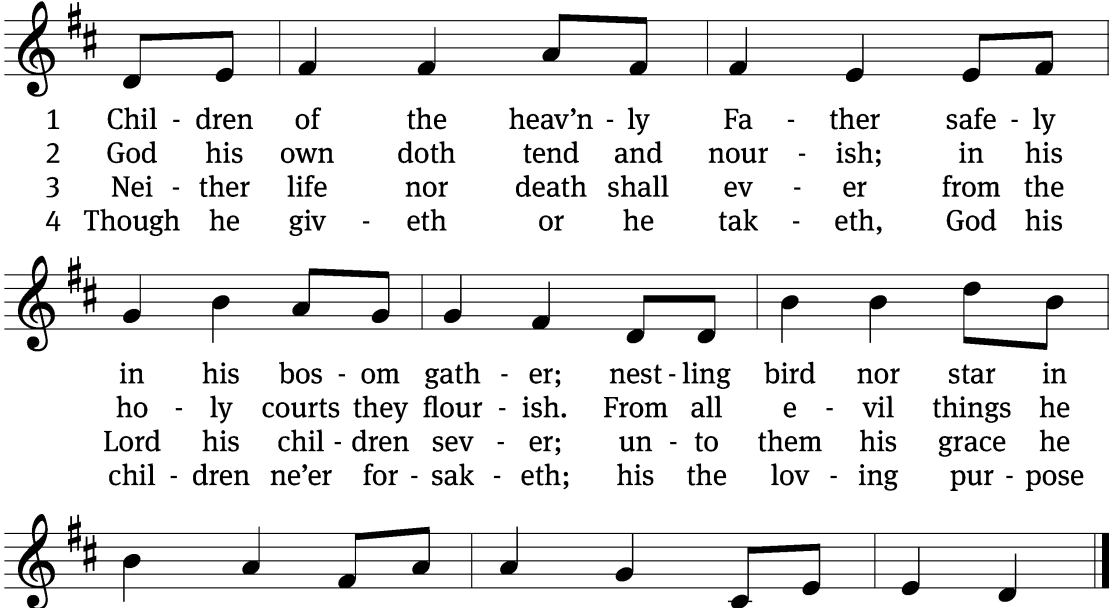
Lord's Prayer

(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.**

Blessing

M: 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.



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther safe - ly
 2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish; in his
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his

in his bos - om gath - er; nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he
 Lord his chil - dren sev - er; un - to them his grace he
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; his the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; in his might - y arms he bears them.
 show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958; Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, abr. Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, Sweden, 1873
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Worship Volunteers	March 26th	April 2nd	April 9th
Counters	Judy Sasse Susie Cornell	Joel Ditter Nancy Schirripa	Nick Nicholai Norm Voigt
Cleaners	Coates Simkauskas	Stern Pappenfuss	Patterson
Communion Setup			
Ushers	Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger Kade Ehinger Bill Brooks	Aaron Gullerud Dave Goelzer Karen Goelzer Michael Ryan	7Am Pedro Contreras Tanner Plizuweit Michael Radue Guy Robertson 9am Len Collyard Nick Nicholai Steve Semmann Sharon Wilson
Sunday Refreshments	Nicole Brown Tracy Ditter	Leslie Contreras Linda Stern	Easter
A/V	Stacy Cornell Aaron Gullerud	Kelly Simpson Pedro Contreras	Titus Patterson Isaac Patterson

Weekly 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



Lenten Schedule

March 29, 2023

His Final Steps Led to His
Father's House

Pastor Robert Smith

Our Savior (Sun City)



April 2nd, 9:00am

Palm Sunday

April 6th, 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday w/ Communion

April 7th, 7:00pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church Easter Services

Sunday April 9th:

7am - Sunrise Service

8am - Breakfast

9am - Festival Service

10:45am - Contemporary Service



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

10111 W Jomax Rd, Peoria, AZ 85383

www.crossofglory.org

623.224.8839



Please join us on April 1st at 8:00am and help us spruce up our campus for Easter.

Mystic Egg-perience

Please use the QR code below to sign up and help our community and promote our Easter Services at the Mystic Egg-perience! This event will be held at the Mystic Clubhouse. We need volunteers for Crafts, Glitter Tattoos, and Scavenger Hunts.



New Bible Classes

Started Sunday, **March 19**

“The Prophet Micah”

Pastor Rich Kugler

Micah was one of God’s spokesmen during what has been called the “golden age” of Old Testament prophecy and whose inspired words still have much that rings true today. He calls out the strayings of his own people and denounces social evils and the corruption of the political and spiritual leaders of his day. He predicts God’s impending judgment in the form of the Assyrian captivity for Israel and exile for Judah in Babylon. But he also has a message of peace and salvation in the coming Messiah, who would be born at Bethlehem.

Starting today Sunday, **March 26**

“Making Sunday Morning Worship the Highlight of Your Week”

Pastor Fred Piepenbrink

As Christians, worship is the most important activity we can participate in here on earth. Once a week we have the opportunity to gather for worship, and some of us have been doing it for years, if not decades. When something is done so often, it can become routine and automatic. Maybe we need to revive our worship life. This Bible-based, PowerPoint-generated study on worship is meant to catch David’s enthusiasm in Psalm 122, “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’”



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During check-out, mention
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**Thank you for supporting
Cross to Glory Lutheran School!**

ACSTO

Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization

We have a custom Cross of Glory link that will make donating your tax dollars a little easier this year! For more information on how to donate or how the tax credit works, get in touch with Elizabeth Simkauskas.

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 still undergoing treatments.

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.