

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Advent 2
Sunday, December 10, 2023

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

1011 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Paul Mueller
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



The season of Advent is historically a time of anticipation and waiting. Typically, we look at this waiting from three distinct vantage points:

1. God's Old Testament people waiting for the birth of the Savior,
2. Christians today waiting for the celebration of Christmas,
3. Christians waiting for the Lord's return on the Last Day.

In every case, God's people were encouraged to wait with expectation and to prepare for the coming of the Lord through repentance and faith. These services are intended to help God's people prepare for the Lord's coming—to Bethlehem, to our hearts, and at the end of the world. Each week in Advent we will hear the voice from one who prepared the way for the Lord to help us in our preparation for our Savior. Today we hear from Simeon who was blessed to hold his Savior in his arms. May these Advent services help to center our attention on our coming Savior and strengthen our faith in him.

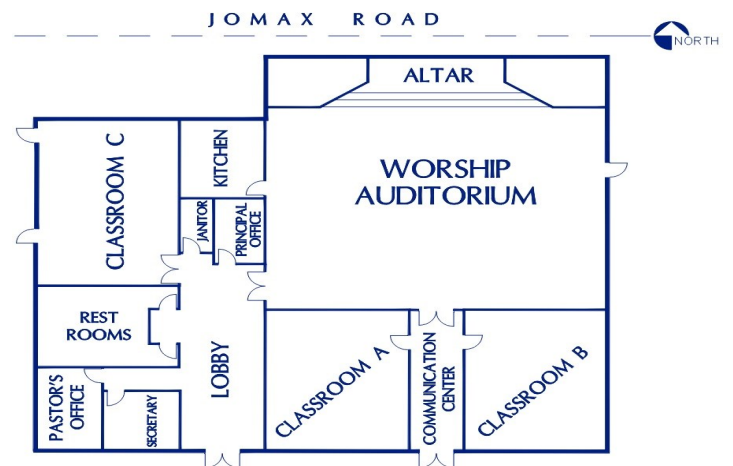
VISITOR INFORMATION

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.

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 in Classroom A.
- **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!

Advent Service & Lord's Supper

Opening Hymn: Voices Raised to You We Offer

CWH 622 (Tune: CWH672)



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. Voic - es raised to you we of - fer;
2. All cre - a - tion joins to praise you;
3. Christ, the song of love in - car - nate,



tune them, God, for songs of praise.
earth and sky your works of dis - play.
touch - ing earth with heav - en's grace,



Hearts and hands we bring in tri - bute
Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
for your liv - ing, suffr - ing, dy - ing,



for your gifts through all our days.
we re - turn to you to - day.
for your ris - ing, hear our praise!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Tri - une God, to you we sing!
God, Cre - a - tor, source of life!
Christ, Re - deem - er, Lord of life!

Invocation

(Spoken Responsively; Sung Response (CWH327))

M: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Give glory to the coming King!

C: Oh, come, let us worship Him!



In this season of Ad-
vent, we call upon the
triune God to be pre-
sent with us as we wor-
ship and prepare our
hearts for the coming
of Christ.

M: Behold, He who was to come has come.

C: **We welcome Him with thankful hearts.**

M: Behold, He who has come is coming again.

C: **We wait for Him with fervent faith.**

M: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: **"Come, Lord Jesus."**

M: All who await His appearance pray:

C: **"Come, Lord Jesus."**

M: The whole creation pleads:

C: **"Come, Lord Jesus."**

Congregation sings:

4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain



The Advent wreath is a symbol of victory, for a garland wreath was often placed on victors in contests or conquests. So naturally, a Christian can think of the crown of life that Jesus has won for us. The four candles in an Advent wreath emphasize the four week period of penitence and preparation during Advent as we eagerly await the coming of the Light of the world to bring new life and hope.

Advent Candle Lighting

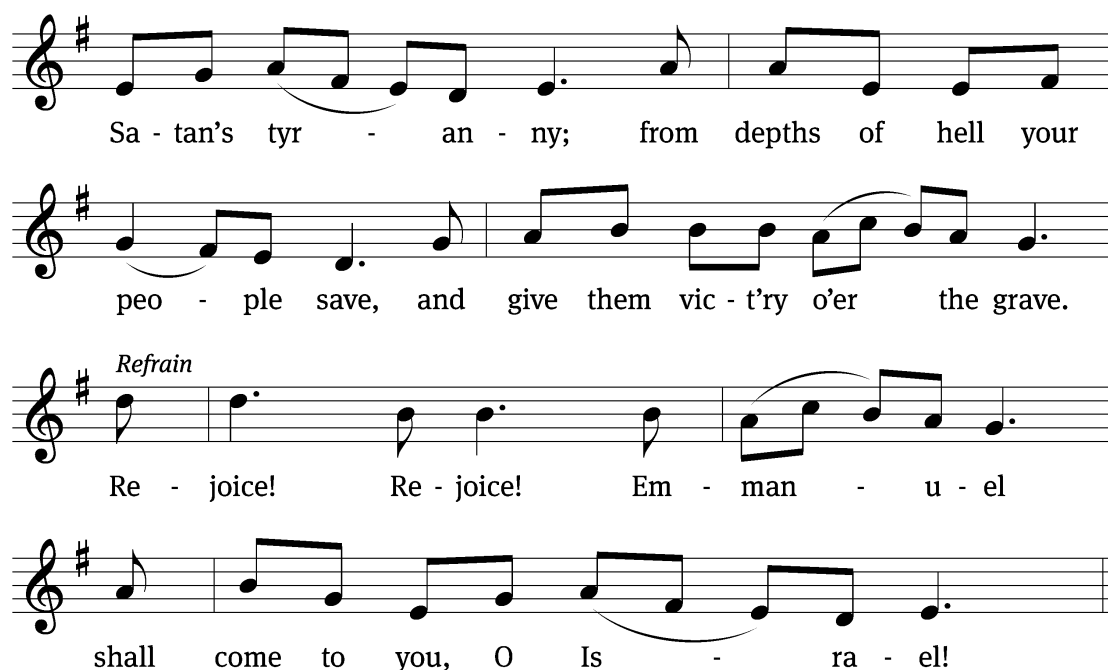
(Spoken Responsively; Sung Response (CWH327))

M: O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open:

C: **Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

Congregation sings:

2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

C: O almighty, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But my heart is deeply grieved over them and I sincerely repent of them; and I pray you in your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

M: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and acting in his behalf and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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 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.



Since the time of David, Israel had called her kings “shepherds.” The men who followed in David’s line, however, did not shepherd Israel in the paths of God. So God made a promise: the Sovereign LORD would shepherd his people. Most importantly, God promised to raise up King David’s greater Son to be the prince of his people and their Good Shepherd.

The Word

Scripture of Prophecy

Ezekiel 34:11–16

¹¹“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹²As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

C: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughters of Jerusalem!

See, your King comes to you, Righteous and having salvation.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you. (*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26*)

Choir

The Coming of the Lord

Words and Music by Pepper Choplin

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Jesus declares that he is the Shepherd prophesized by Ezekiel. He for whom the whole of creation exists freely and willingly sacrifices himself for the sheep who add nothing to his own infinite worth. The Father even agrees with that sacrifice. He loves the sheep, it would seem, even more than he loves the Shepherd! For it is his will that the Shepherd become the Good Shepherd in just this way. So much they love the flock! Listen to his voice! It gives the life that he laid down and has now taken up again.

The Children's Sermon

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

The Scripture of Anticipation

John 10:11–18

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

**C: Alleluia! Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia! (Psalm 24:9)**

Hymn of the Day: Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

CWH 950
(Tune: Consolation)



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



1. Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace, your
2. This is the Sa - vior of the world, the
3. With saints of old, with saints to come, to



word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
Gen - tiles' pro - mised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
you we lift our voice; to Fath - er, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told.
in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest be hon - or, love, and praise;



These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's
God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our
to Fath - er, Son, and Spir - it



dawn, this child so long fore - told.
midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.
blest be hon - or, love, and praise.



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 Nicene Creed was written in 325 A.D. to address false ideas about the divinity of Jesus Christ. That explains why the second article of the Nicene Creed is longer than its counterpart in the Apostles' Creed.

Sermon

They Prepared a Way: Simeon *Mine eyes have seen the Glory*

Luke 2:22–35

²²When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,**

and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Song of the Season: Holy Is Your Name

CWH 956

Ensemble sings Vs. 1-2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3-5



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.

*My soul is filled with joy
as I sing to God, my Savior.
You have looked upon your servant,
you have visited your people. (Refrain)*

*Refrain: And holy is your name through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen,
and holy is your name.*

*I am lowly as a child,
but I know from this day forward
that my name will be remembered,
and the world will call me blessed. (Refrain)*

Congregation sings:



3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work
4 To the hun - gry you give food, send the
5 In your love you now ful - fill all you
won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -
rich a - way with noth - ing. In your mer - cy you are
prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my
heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.
mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

Refrain
And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -
a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the
peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Text: anonymous, alt. Tune: Scottish Text and tune: Public domain



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)

Offering Prayer

If you brought a monetary gift today for the work of the church, please place your offering in the receptacle at one of the two entrances to the sanctuary either before or after the service.

Prayer of the Church

(Spoken by Minister)

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.

The Sacrament

Preface

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

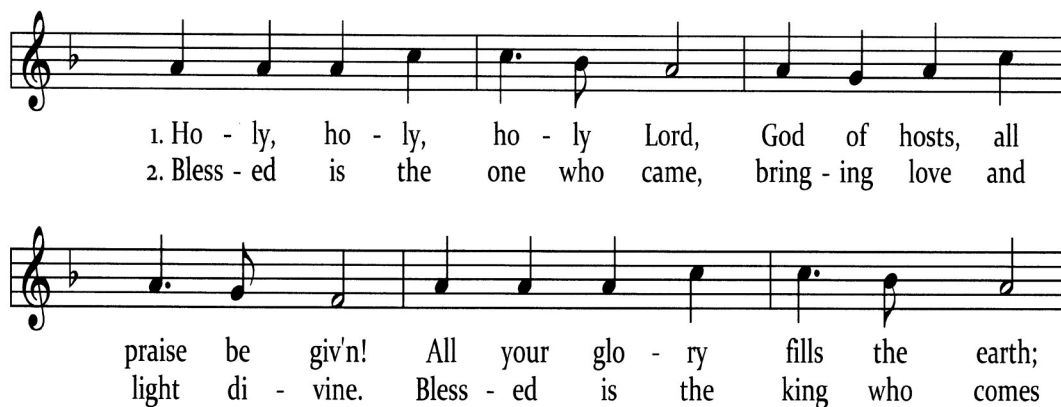
C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

The pastor and people prepare to celebrate the Holy Meal by greeting each other and with an exhortation as how to celebrate the meal.

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

(Sung by Congregation—Tune (CWH 346))



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all
2. Bless - ed is the one who came, bring - ing love and

praise be giv'n! All your glo - ry fills the earth;
light di - vine. Bless - ed is the king who comes



Sanctus is a Latin word meaning "Holy". The Sanctus contains words from Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3) and the crowd's response on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 21:9). We join them in spirit by singing their words as we anticipate Christ's coming in the sacrament.

all in your pow - er and fills the heav'ns. wine.

Glo - ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o!



The pastor speaks the words which Jesus spoke when he instituted the Supper with his disciples in the Upper Room. With these words the bread and wine are consecrated, that is, set apart for God's use in this special meal.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

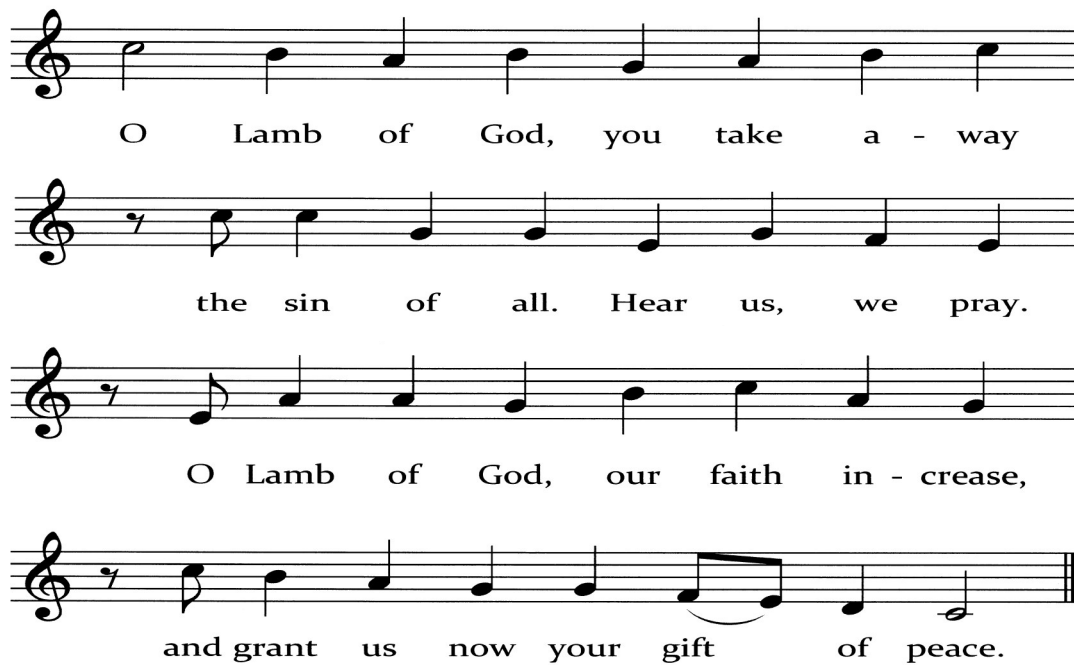
C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

(Sung to tune: CWH 331)



Agnus Dei is a Latin phrase meaning "Lamb of God". John the Baptist spoke these words as he pointed to Jesus coming toward him (John 1:29). As Christ comes to us in the Holy Supper, we recognize him as the Lamb of God sacrificed for us to free us from the bondage of sin and death.



Distribution of Sacrament

We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to today, you should speak with our pastor before the service. We would like to help you establish the unity which comes from a common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) before expressing that union together at the Lord's Table. It is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God's Word. Those who have established that connection as members of sister WELS or ELS congregations may register by checking the box in the attendance record book at the end of your row. Thank you for honoring our practice.

Distribution Hymn: Draw Near

CWH 662

Congregation sings refrains; Ensemble sings verses



This is a hymn sung by the congregation during the distribution of the Lord's Supper.



Ensemble: Draw near and take the body of your Lord,
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Saved by his body and his holy blood,
with souls refreshed we give our thanks to God.

Congregation: Refrain

*Ensemble: Christ our Redeemer, God's eternal Son,
has by his cross and blood the vict'ry won.
He gave his life for greatest and for least,
himself the offering and himself the priest.*

Congregation: Refrain

*Ensemble: Let us approach with faithful hearts sincere
and take the pledges of salvation here.
Christ, who in this life all the saints defends,
gives all believers life that never ends.*

Congregation: Refrain

*Ensemble: With heav'nly bread he makes the hungry whole,
gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
Lord of the nations, to whom all must bow,
in this great feast of love be with us now.*

Congregation: Refrain

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*We close the service as
we began with the
words of Revelation
22:20, "Amen. Come,
Lord Jesus."*

The Dismissal

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Behold, He who was to come has come.

C: We welcome him with thankful hearts.

M: Behold, He who has come is coming again.

C: We wait for him with fervent faith.

M: He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon'

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

M: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people.

C: Amen.

Ensemble:

Days of Elijah

Acknowledgments

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Personal Prayers for Communion

Before Communing

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communing

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Worship Volunteers	December 10	December 17	December 24
Counters	Joel Ditter/Nancy Schirripa	Nick Nicholai/Michael Ryan	Nancy Murphy/Harry Novak
Communion	Shannon		
Church Cleaners	Gullerud/Kugler	Plitzuweit/Peterson/Sterns	Martins/Pappenfuss/Cape
Ushers	Brian Ehinger/Jake Ehinger/Trey Ehinger/Kade Ehinger/Bill Brooks	Dave Goelzer/Karen Goelzer/Michael Ryan/Gary Jeffers	9:00am Verl Naber/Joel Ditter 6:00pm Chris Patterson/Isaac Patterson/Titus Patterson/Grant Stern
Refreshments	Kathy Collyard/Andrea Semmann	Stacey Aguilar/Karen Goelzer/Angela Hall	Ally Kelly/Sharon Wilson
A/V	Kelly Simpson/Pedro Contreras	Shannon Gullerud/Aaron Gullerud	9:00am Hailey Ditter/Joel Ditter 6:00pm Titus Patterson/Isaac Patterson

Weekly Newsletter QR Code

Please check your email or use this QR code for the weekly newsletter



Prayer Highlights for members and friends with noteworthy blessings, difficulties or health issues. Today we especially remember in our prayers...

***Diane Lawrence** who recently broke all three of the bones in her left ankle.*

***Norm Voigt**, as he continues treatments*

***Velta Larson**, as she recovers from eye surgery*

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. **Ben Weyer**, serving in the military, at El Paso, TX



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.