

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Christmas Day Hymn Festival

December 25, 2023

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org

10111 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Paull 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



"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to us that we should proclaim the Word of God in music."

~ Martin Luther ~

The angels knew that too. So they sang to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem, "Glory to God in the highest!" This morning we have gathered in the same spirit to celebrate Jesus' birth, in song, the **Joy to the World** only Jesus can bring.

To God be the glory!

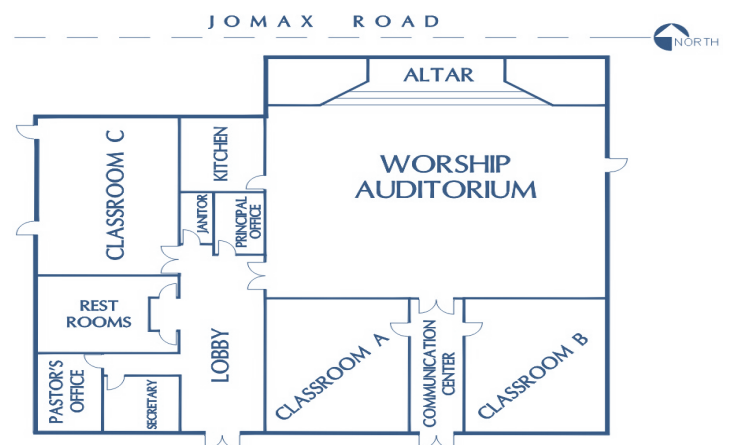
VISITOR INFORMATION

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 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!

Christmas Hymn Festival

Opening Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

CWH 354



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 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
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!

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

Invocation

(Spoken Responsively)

M: We sing the praises of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity
for all our God has done and continues to do for all people.

C: Amen.

M: The Psalms have long been used by believers for comfort and encouragement in
worship, and in everyday life. Psalm 98 tells us to rejoice and sing to the Lord.
Let's speak the words of this Psalm.



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



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 98

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Sing to the LORD a new song,

C: **for he has done marvelous things.**

M: The LORD has made his salvation known

C: **and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

M: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel

C: **all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

C: **burst into jubilant song with music;**

M: make music to the LORD with the harp,

C: **with the harp and the sound of singing.**

M: Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

C: **He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

Hymn: Peace Came to Earth

CWH 330

M: Jaroslav Vajda, author of 56 hymns, has been called the Martin Luther of the 1900s when it comes to writing his hymns. Not just the number, but the quality of hymns make it so. Nine of his hymns appear in our new hymnal. This hymn describes the peace between God and man that came from Christ. His great love finds its zenith at Christmas and Easter.

1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could

clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied
 blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you
 I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -

love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u-el!
 vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u-el!
 brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u-el!

Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Tune: arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.; Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952 Text: © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: © 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716



M: The essence of our worship service is an exchange between God and his people.
Let's join in confessing our sins:

C: Lord of Heaven and Earth, you see all that goes on in my life. You even see the desires of my heart and the thoughts of my mind. You know that I have failed over and over to do what I should and at times neglected to carry out your love. Father, forgive me for my wrongs! I am sorry that I have offended you with my many sins. I cannot make up for a single one of them. For Jesus' sake, forgive and restore me. Guide me in my life and take me to life eternal through faith in Jesus. Amen.

M: The reason Jesus came into the world was to forgive sorrowful sinners. I can assure you from the Word of God that he has forgiven your sins in Christ Jesus. He wrote to us, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Go in Peace, your sins are forgiven.

"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.

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

CWH 346

M: Most, if not all of us, like to feel we are a part of a special occasion. How wonderful it would have been to be part of the angelic choir singing out "GLO-O-O-O-RI-A". We feel the joy, the excitement, the anticipation of the moment. The most important announcement ever is occurring: Glory to God and Peace on Earth to Men. The tune and words are from an old 18th century French tune of unknown origin.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

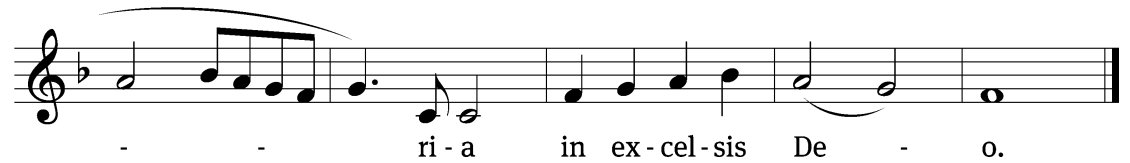


and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.





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



Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French Tune: French Text and tune: Public domain

Christmas Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Lord Jesus on this day we celebrate your entry into our world to save us from sin. You came to be our Savior. Inspire us, O Lord to delight in your Word, to follow your decrees, and to walk your paths! Turn our eyes away from worthless things, that we continue to know the sweetness of your Word, the peace of your forgiveness, and the joy of being redeemed. We are your people, created by you; rescued from eternal death by Jesus' undeserved love; brought to faith by the Holy Spirit's working in our hearts through the words of the Bible. Let our Christmas songs be like the Old Testament sacrifices, a sweet fragrance before you as we rejoice like the shepherds of Bethlehem.

C: Amen.



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.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (*Isaiah 9:2*)

Congregation sings:

CWH 338



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

The Word

First Reading

Micah 5:2–5a



Bethlehem was a little town. Yet, it will be known throughout history as the birth-place of the God-man.

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CWH 350

M: Originally written in 1743 by Charles Wesley, ‘Hark the Herald Angels’ was modified by another famous preacher, George Whitefield in 1753. The tune also has been altered several times as it gained popular acceptance. Wesley used the words of Isaiah, chapter nine, to bring glory to God as the angel messengers proclaimed “**Glory to the newborn King!**”

Congregation sings:

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;



with th' an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le - hem!"



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

M: In our services we often have what is called a creed. A creed is a short statement of our beliefs. It tells what we stand for and what we accept as unchangingly true. It also tells people whom we believe in. Today we will vary that a little. We have other confessions to which we subscribe. A confession (not of sin) is very similar to a creed. So we will use selected parts of the **Augsburg Confession** as our creed this morning.



Written by Luther's colleague Philip Melancthon, this statement of faith is often viewed as the chief Lutheran confession. It was presented by the followers of Luther to Emperor Charles V at the imperial diet (assembly) meeting in Augsburg, Germany. It was intended to be a summary of the chief articles of the Christian faith as understood and taught by Lutherans in contrast to the errors that were being taught by the Roman Catholic church.

Creed: Augsburg Confession

(Spoken Responsively)

M: It is taught and held that there is one divine essence which is named God and truly is God. But there are three persons in the same one essence, equally powerful, equally eternal: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

C: All three are one divine essence, eternal, undivided, unending, of immeasurable power, wisdom, and goodness; the creator and preserver of all visible and invisible things.

M: It is taught that God the son became a human being, born of the Virgin Mary, and that the two natures, the divine and the human, are so inseparably united in one person that there is one Christ.

C: He is true God and true human being who truly "was born, suffered, was crucified, died and was buried" in order both to be a sacrifice not only for original sin but also for all other sins and to conciliate God's wrath.

Congregation sings:



2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,



late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.



Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th'in-car - nate De - i - ty!



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!"

M: Moreover, the same Christ "descended into Hell, truly rose from the dead on the third day, ascended into Heaven, is sitting at the right hand of God" in order to rule and reign forever over all creatures, so that through the Holy Spirit He may make holy, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in Him. He also distributes to them life and various gifts. He shields and protects them against the devil and sin.

C: Finally, the same Lord Christ "will come' in full view of all "to judge the living and the dead".

Congregation sings:



3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



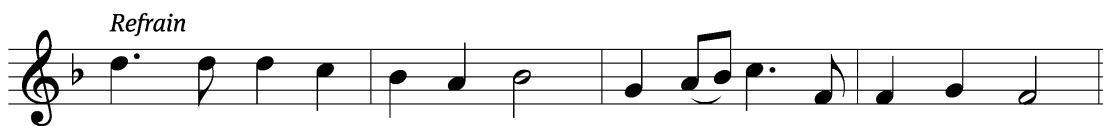
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec-ond birth.



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

M: It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sins and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.

C: For God will regard this faith as righteousness in his sight.

M: To obtain such faith God has instituted the office of preaching, giving the Gospel and the sacraments.

C: Through these means, he gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when He wills, in those who hear the Gospel.

M: This is a summary of what is preached and taught in our churches for proper Christian instruction and the comfort of consciences, as well as for the improvement of believers.

Hymn: Away in a Manger

CWH 340

M: Many have mistakenly thought Martin Luther wrote this hymn, but that isn't so. This hymn, author unknown, first appeared in song books in 1885. It is likely that it was written in the United States in the Midwest, but that is all we know. It was popularized by the Billy Sunday crusades in the early 1900s. Its simple words and melody make it easily teachable to children and a favorite for all ages. (Was this possibly the first hymn you learned?)

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1-2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905 Text and tune: Public domain

Children's Sermon

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



The Son of God was born of a woman so that he might redeem us and make us heirs of the heavenly Father.

Hymn: Still, Still, Still

LAP289

M: The melody for this song came from an old Austrian carol. No one knows who wrote it, but George Evans modernized it and put it into his Christmas song book in 1963. Evans wanted a song that was especially easy for young children to sing, since he had several youngsters of his own. It was a surprise for his wife when they sang it for her, and then for the people at the church they attended, on Christmas Eve. It was instantly loved and soon was included in most modern songbooks.

1. Still, still, still, your heart with joy and I'd
2. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'mid the ox - en and the

fill. I'd sing you a song and watch by your man - ger,
sheep. The shep - herds come to see your glo - ry;

guard you from harm and keep you from dan - ger.
an - gels bend low to tell the sto - ry.

Still, still, still, your
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'mid the

heart with joy and I'd fill.
ox - en and the sheep.



The mystery of the incarnation—God became man; the Word became flesh.

Gospel

John 1:1–18

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 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.

¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'")

¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Hymn: What Child Is This

CWH 344

M: 'What Child is This' was at first more famous for its melody than for its words. The tune 'Greensleeves' was made popular by William Shakespeare in his plays. As was common throughout history, Christians took secular songs and turned them into Christian ballads. This English ballad was first used as a religious song in 1642. Much later, William Dix, using the visit of the Wise Men as the basis for the tune, re-wrote the words in 1865.

1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to
sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

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.



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

Christmas Prayer of the Church

(Spoken Responsively)

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 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, today and 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

(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,**

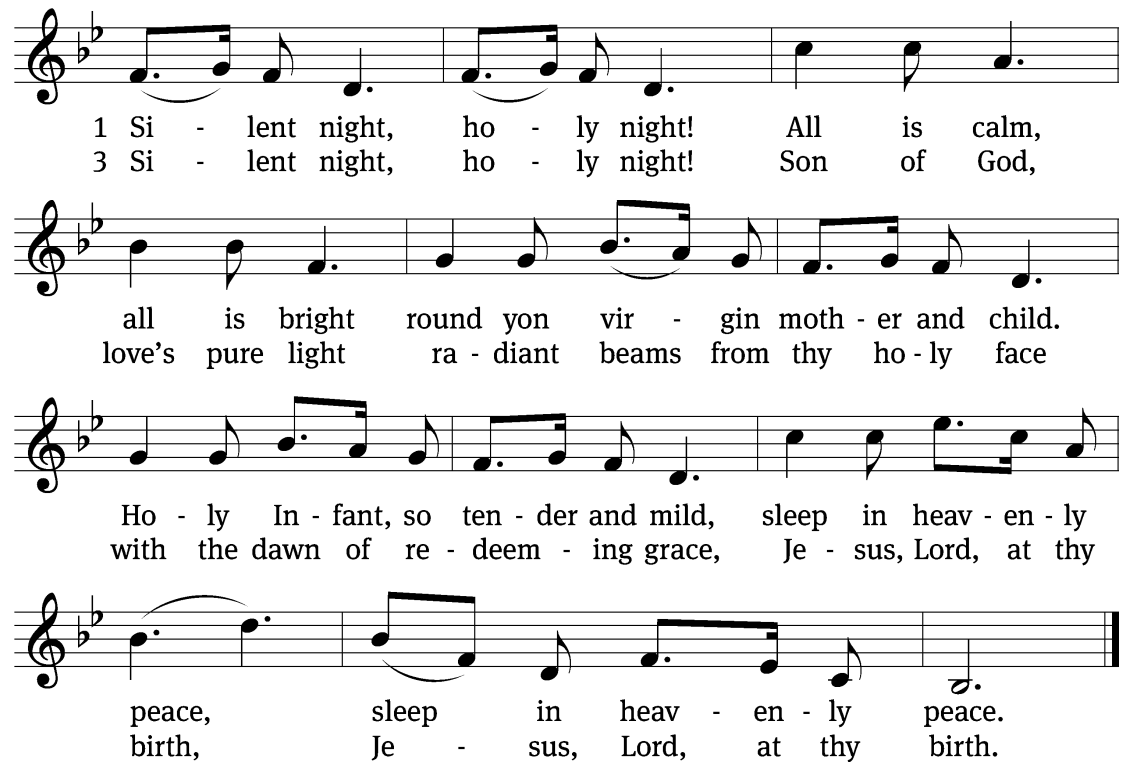
We speak to God as our Father as Jesus taught us. (Matthew 6)

but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night

CWH 337

M: This most famous Christmas Carol was written in 1818 by Joseph Mohr, assistant priest at a church near Salzburg. There are several legends as to how this hymn came to be. The most popular version is that Mohr was called to a parishioner's house whose wife was in labor on Dec. 23rd. She gave birth to a son. As Mohr walked home in the early evening hours, he thought of how the birth he just witnessed was like Christ's birth. So he quickly penned the words when he arrived home and gave them to his church organist, Franz Gruber. Gruber looked them over, wrote the music for two soloists (accompanied by guitar since the church organ was not working) and they performed it that Christmas Eve service. It conveys such a sense of peace and happiness, as we marvel at God's goodness.



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863
 Text and tune: Public domain



A special Christmas
 blessing celebrating
 Christ's earthly arrival
 to fulfill God the Fa-
 ther's promise of salva-
 tion.

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. Amen.

M: Ironically, this Christmas hymn has no reference to angels, wise men, shepherds, Mary & Joseph or even the name 'Jesus'. Yet the message comes across loud and clear: Joy to the World, The Savior comes! It is based on Psalm 98. Isaac Watts wanted this song to be the New Testament version of a Psalm. The tune was a remake of a song from Handel's Messiah.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
 ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -
 room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt. Tune: George F. Handel, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

From all the faculty and staff at Cross of Glory



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.