

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Holy Thursday
March 28, 2024

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

1011 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Zachary Pudlo
Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

WELCOME to our worship center



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



Stripping of the Altar The Maundy Thursday service concludes with the stripping of the altar. The practice dates from the 7th century and originally served the practical purpose of cleaning the sanctuary in preparation for Easter, when all things are made new. In time, however, the practice became ceremonial in its own right. In silence, communion vessels, table cloths, pulpit and lectern hangings, candles, and all other decorative and liturgical objects are removed, thus dramatizing the abandonment and darkness of the passion and death of our Lord. The sanctuary remains bare until the beginnings of the Easter celebration. The church remains in semi-darkness, and all exit in silence. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors.

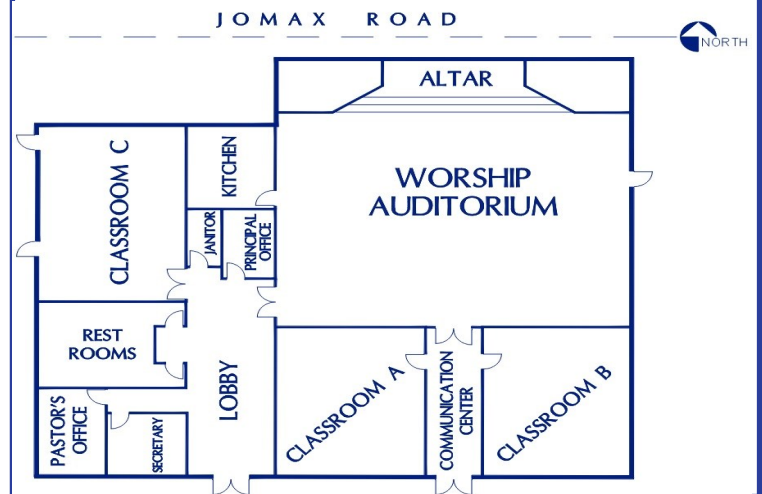
VISITOR INFORMATION

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.

Holy Thursday Service

Opening Hymn: The Blood of the Lamb

CWH 418

The Soloist sings Vs. 1-2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3-6

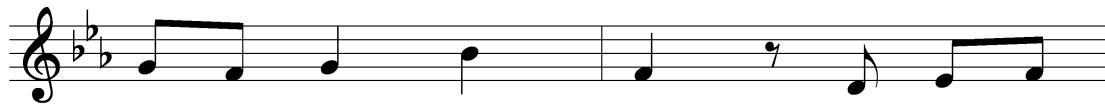
*The Father sees his children's chains.
From Pharaoh's land they cry in pain.
To rescue them, he makes a way:
the blood of the lamb.*

*The lamb is slain as sun is set—
a perfect lamb, without defect.
They stain their doors with innocence:
the blood of the lamb.*

Congregation sings:



3 As mid - night looms, the hour of death, God seeks the
4 Chil - dren of God, we too were slaves: our mas - ter—
5 This per - fect Lamb is Je - sus Christ. He gave him -
6 The blood he spilled, the life he spent, he gives us



first - born, steals their breath, but pass - es
sin! Our end— the grave! But free - dom
self as sac - ri - fice. His life poured
now in sac - ra - ment. E - ter - nal



o'er doors drenched in red: the blood of the lamb.
came in crim - son shades: the blood of the Lamb.
out, the fi - nal price: the blood of the Lamb.
life on Christ de - pends: the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965 Tune: Sarah R. Lambrecht, b. 1975
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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)



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).

Sermon

God on Trial: Respite

Luke 22:7-20

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

⁹"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

¹⁰He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹²He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

¹³They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

²⁰In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Choir

I See a Rose in the Garden

Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin

Confession

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.



"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)

In Holy Communion, first instituted on this night, the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

**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;
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.**

~Silence for meditation and reflection~

Absolution

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.

Reconciliation

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

C: Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

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.

We have peace in the confidence of forgiveness.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

(2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

The Word



The main thought of the service is collected or summarized in this short prayer.

The Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



Pharaoh hungered for slave labor for Egypt. Israel was starving for salvation. The LORD satisfied that hunger through the Passover meal.

First Reading

Exodus 12:21–30

²¹Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²²Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

²⁴“Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ ²⁷then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. ²⁸The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 116C

Psalm sung responsively between soloist and congregation



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."

Verses



1 For the love of the One who has heard my cry:
2 In the cords of my death, I was tan - gled round:
3 God is mer - cy and grace and the sim - ple are blest:
4 God has raised up my soul from the gates of death:
5 What re - turn can I give for the gifts I claim?



I will walk in the pres-ence of God.



1 God has heard my dis-tress, and I shall not die:
2 Those who seek you in an - guish shall not be bound:
3 Raised me up in my pain, God my safe-ty and rest:
4 God has dried all my tears and re - newed my breath:
5 Lift the cup of sal - va - tion and praise your name:



I will walk in the pres-ence of God.

Refrain



I will walk in the pres-ence of God



in the land, in the land of the liv - ing.



For the love of the One who has heard my cry:



I will walk in the pres-ence of God.



We thirst for loving fellowship with God and one another. That thirst is quenched in the cup of thanksgiving.



This hymn follows the theme of the readings of the day.

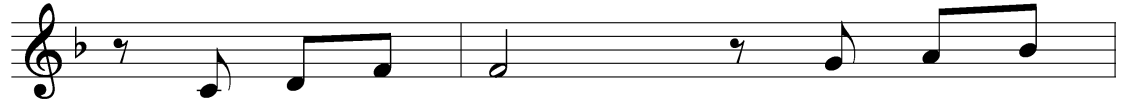
Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

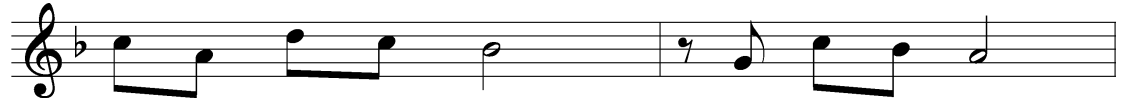
¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

Hymn of the Day: What Is This Bread

CWH 665



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod	-	y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood	of	
3	So	who	am	I,	that	I	should	
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes!	By	
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am	for	-



ris	-	en	from	the	dead:	this	bread	we	break,
Je	-	sus	shed	for	mine;	the	cup	of	grace
live	and	he	should	die		un	-	der	the
Word	and	prom	-	ise	clear,	in	mouth	and	soul
giv	-	en	and	set	free!	I	do	be	-
						lieve			



this	life	we	take,	was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re
brings	his	em	-	brace	of	life	and	love	un	-
My	God,	my	God,	why	have	you	not	for	-	sak
he	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru	-	ly	pres	-	ent
that	I	re	-	ceive	his	ver	-	y	bod	-
					his	ver	-	y	bod	-
					and	his				



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, b. 1946 Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, b. 1951
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The gifts of God's people are a response to God's blessings.

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 Great Litany

(Spoken Responsively)



The Great Litany prayer dates back to at least the fourth century and is one of the great expressions of petition that is common in the Christian church. Martin Luther both highly regarded this historic prayer and counted it as an accurate reflection of the Christian's total dependence on God for life and grace.

M: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

C: Have mercy on us.

M: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: Have mercy on us.

M: O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,

C: Have mercy on us.

M: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,

C: Have mercy on us.

M: Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses nor the offenses of our forebears. Spare us, good Lord; spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

M: From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vain glory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: From all deadly sin and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart and contempt for your Word and your will,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: By your bloody sweat and bitter grief, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: By your mighty resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: In our times of trouble, in our times of prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

C: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

M: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Have mercy on us.

M: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Grant us peace.

M: Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Christ, have mercy on us.

M: Lord, have mercy on us.

The Sacrament

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

The Preparation

(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, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

(Sung by Congregation)

Tune: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM



1 Round God's throne on high blaz-ing an-gels cry, sing-ing,
2 Blest be Da-vid's Son! In God's name he comes, grace and



"Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, Lord, we praise you for your glo-ry,
par-don to pro-vide us. Sing, "Ho-san-na in the high-est!"



shin-ing bright-ly forth, fill-ing heav'n and earth."
Je-sus, hear our plea: come and set us free!



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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



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



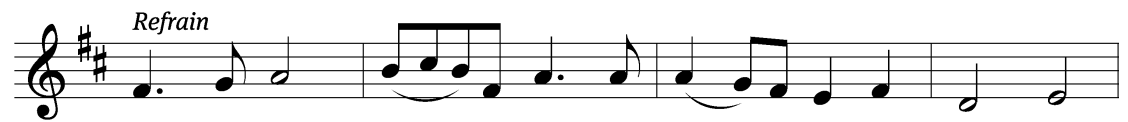
*The pastor speaks the
words which Jesus
spoke when he institut-
ed the Supper with his
disciples in the Upper
Room. With these
words the bread and
wine are consecrated,
that is, set apart for
God's use in this special
meal.*



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.

Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

(Sung by Congregation)



Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the world's sin,



Lamb of God, Lamb of God, have mer-cy up-on us.



1 As high as the heav'ns are o - ver the earth, so great is your



love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so



far have you re - moved our sin.

Refrain



Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the world's sin,



Lamb of God, Lamb of God, give to us your peace.

Text: Psalm 103:11-13, para. Kenneth T. Kosche, b. 1947; traditional Agnus Dei, alt. Tune: Kenneth T. Kosche, b. 1947
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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.



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



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, turned a - way God's
 2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, he, this pre - cious
 3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; take heed how you
 4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion if sal - va - tion



wrath for - ev - er; by his bit - ter grief and woe
 food sup - ply - ing, gives his bod - y with the bread
 are pre - par - ing, for if you do not be - lieve,
 you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup - pose



he saved us from the e - vil foe.
 and with the wine the blood he shed.
 judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.
 you need not him who died and rose.

**Christ says, "Come, all you that labor,
 and receive my grace and favor;
 those who feel no pain or ill
 need no physician's help or skill."**

**Then hold fast with faith unshaken
 that this food is to be taken
 by the souls who are distressed,
 by hearts that long for peace and rest.**

**Praise the Father, who from heaven
 unto us such food has given
 and, to mend what we have done,
 gave into death his only Son.**

**If your heart this truth professes
 and your mouth your sin confesses,
 surely you will be his guest
 and at his banquet ever blest.**

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; John Hus, c. 1369–1415
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1533, ed. Joseph Klug, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

We offer our thanks
and express our faith
in what God has
done for us and has
promised to do for
us in the future.



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.

After the Lord's Supper is celebrated it is customary to "strip the altar," which symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. It represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin. Following the stripping of the altar, the congregation leaves the sanctuary in silence contemplating the great sacrifice of Jesus.

Thanksgiving and Proclamation

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **his mercy endures forever.**

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.

We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **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.**

Stripping of the Altar: There Is a Fountain

CWH 401

The soloist sings Vs. 1 & 3; congregation sings Vs. 4 & 5

*There is a fountain filled with blood
drawn from Immanuel's veins,
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains:
lose all their guilty stains,
lose all their guilty stains,
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains.*

*Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood
shall never lose its pow'r
till all the ransomed Church of God
be saved, to sin no more:
be saved, to sin no more,
be saved, to sin no more,
till all the ransomed Church of God
be saved, to sin no more.*

Congregation sings:



4 E'er since by faith I saw the stream your
5 When this poor lisp - ing, stam - m'ring tongue lies



flow - ing wounds sup - ply, re - deem - ing love has
si - lent in the grave, then in a no - bler,



been my theme and shall be till I die:
sweet - er song I'll sing your pow'r to save:



and shall be till I die, and shall be
I'll sing your pow'r to save, I'll sing your



till I die, re - deem - ing love has
pow'r to save, then in a no - bler,



been my theme and shall be till I die.
sweet - er song I'll sing your pow'r to save.

Text: William Cowper, 1731-1800, abr., alt. Tune: American, 19th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

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

***Diane Lawrence**, who is healing from surgery.*

***Velta Larson**, as she recovers from eye surgery and is now recovering from a broken pelvis.*

***Angela Hall**, who is starting physical therapy for her ankle replacement.*

***Judy Sasse**, who is recovering from surgery and will be undergoing radiation treatments for cancer that was discovered.*

***Phil Fidel**, as he mourns the death of his wife Fran*

***Norm Voigt**, as he battles cancer.*

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.