

# Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



**Advent 4**  
**December 21, 2025**

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

**Sunday 9am Worship**

Pastor Zachary Pudlo  
Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal



**Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory**

**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.*

## Worship Focus



Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he impacts our lives when the Bible is read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

Nov 30 Imminent Arrival of the Judge

Dec 21 Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel

Dec 7 Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

**IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF EMMANUEL:** Emmanuel is an important person. "Emmanuel" means "God with us." It was a special name given to Jesus already 700 years before he was born. Who is with us when Jesus is with us? God himself. God became a human being in a special way, becoming truly human but remaining God.

God is still with us. We encounter him in a special way when we gather with two or three others in worship. He is so near to us that the thrill of anticipation is almost unbearable. Let it wash over you as you celebrate Christmas this week.

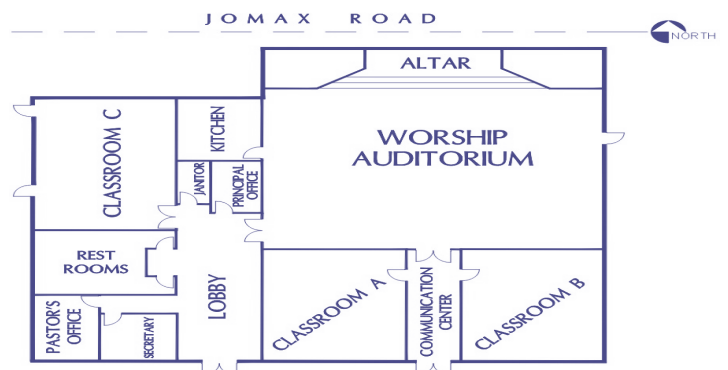
### VISITOR INFORMATION

**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](mailto: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!

## Opening Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CWH 313



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 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt. Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

## 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!

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."



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.

### Congregation sings:

3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us  
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y  
clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ows put to flight.

*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))

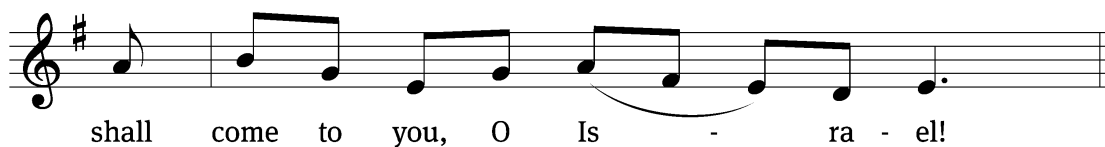
M: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the Anointed for the nations and their Savior:

C: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

### Congregation sings:

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710

## 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.**

## The Word

### Prayer of the Day

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### First Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.



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



Isaiah prophesies that a virgin would give birth to God in the flesh.

### Women’s Choir

**Come, Messiah, Come**

Words and Music by Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo



After thousands of years of God's promises, Paul looks back and sees every one of them kept when God became man.

## Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— <sup>2</sup>the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup>regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup>and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup>Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. <sup>6</sup>And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.



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

## Hymn of the Day: Peace Came to Earth

CWH 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels  
2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held the in - fant  
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  
in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and  
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!  
side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but sigh: 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 shout: 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: Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952; arr. Mark Kellner, 1959-2015, alt.

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<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## 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.**

*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.*



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.



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.

### Song of the Season: Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven

1. Je - sus, joy of the high - est  
2. Jes - us, King of the high - est

heav - en, born as a lit - tle  
heav - en learn - ing to take his

ba - by un - der a won - drous star.  
first steps, that he might bring us life.

Like us, cry - ing he takes his  
Like us, know - ing our smiles and

first breath, held by his mo - ther,  
sor - rows, he showed the way to

help - less, close to her beat - ing heart.  
fol - low, a way that is true and right.

Je - sus, laid in a low - ly  
Je - sus, take a - way ev - ery





## 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.*

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



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

# 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.

## 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:



*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.

## 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

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

Glo - - - - - ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o!



## 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.



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.

## O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

(Sung to tune: CWH 331)



**Ag-** **nus**  
*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.

Gluten-free wafers are available. If you point at the tray of wafers, you will be presented with a tray of gluten free wafers which you are invited to take.

Alcohol-free white grape juice can be taken from the wine tray.



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

## 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: As Angels Joyed with One Accord

CWH 320

1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the  
 2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty nor pow'r that  
 3 This done, he soared to God's right hand, yet or - phaned  
 4 In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— he comes; we

ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly  
 suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he  
 not his cho - sen band, for he, not bound in  
 hear his voice re - sound. His glo - rious gos - pel

praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.  
 walked till he in dy - ing set us cap - tives free.  
 grace and pow'r, at - tends his own each day and hour.  
 does not cease to bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

He comes in water to the child  
 and cleanses it, from birth defiled.  
 This washing seals his pard'ning grace  
 and shows the Father's kindly face.

He comes to us in bread and wine  
 to give himself and gifts divine.  
 O praise him for this sacrament,  
 redeeming love's great testament!

Lift up your heads! All grief and pain  
 shall vanish when he comes again.

**Where we shall see him face to face,  
there joy alone shall have a place.**

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996, abr., alt. Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
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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.

## Closing Hymn: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

CWH 345



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:  
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;  
sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:  
his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:



but there is room and wel - come there for me,  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,



but there is room and wel - come there for me.  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021  
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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.







# **Cross of Glory**

## **Lutheran Church & School**

10111 W Jomax Road  
Peoria, AZ 85383

*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.*

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