

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 18, 2026

623-224-8839 • 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

The Misery of Mankind. When people look at the world the question often surfaces, "Why?" Why is there fear, anger, and selfishness? Why is there pain, regret, and death? Why is there guilt and the endless pain of conscience? The answer is sin. Sin was brought into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord. As a result everyone born since is infected by their single action. This has doomed us to the misery with which we live. We cannot escape it because it is the consequence and inheritance of sin. Yet, even though sin increased from the time of Adam, so did God's undeserved love. That love was displayed in its fullest when Jesus came into the world. Through Jesus there is mercy. Mercy which more than covers a multitude of sin. There is mercy to heal every misery with which we must struggle. While the world can offer no solution for the misery of



mankind, there is a solution through the mercy of Jesus.

Our journey through Lent takes the following path:

Feb 18	Fear Which Seizes the Heart is Removed	Mar 11	Hearts Once Polluted are Purified
Feb 25	A Life of Pain Fades to an Eternity of Joy	Mar 18	The Reign of Death is Defeated
Mar 04	Paradise Which was Lost is Restored	Mar 25	Sin which Multiplies is Surpassed by Grace

Fear is one of our greatest enemies. We fear being alone. We fear failure. We fear rejection. The greatest fear we experience is the knowledge we will have to stand before the Almighty God as he judges us. There is no place to hide. There is no excuse or justification we can offer. There is no refuge from the just sentence he should proclaim—away from me you evil doers into the punishment prepared for the devil and his angels. Our only hope, and the only solution for our fear, is Jesus. In his mercy he rescues us from every fear. He tells us to stop giving into our fears, and he shows us why. He has conquered every fear and he makes us bold, confident, and courageous.

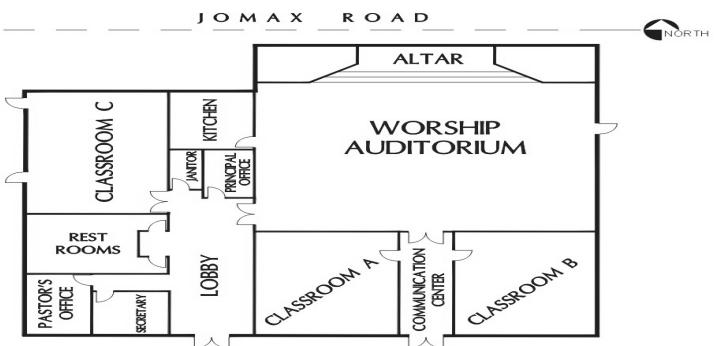
VISITOR INFORMATION

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. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

Ash Wednesday Evening Prayer & Lord's Supper

Gathering Rite for Lent

(Spoken Responsively; Sung Responses CWH 579)

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you;

C: And also with you.

M: O Lord, open my lips;

C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: Come quickly to save me, O God;

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

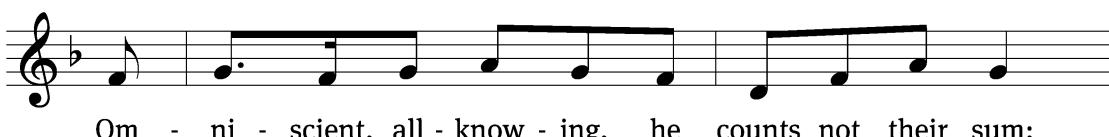
M: The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit,

C: A broken and crushed heart, O God, you will not despise.

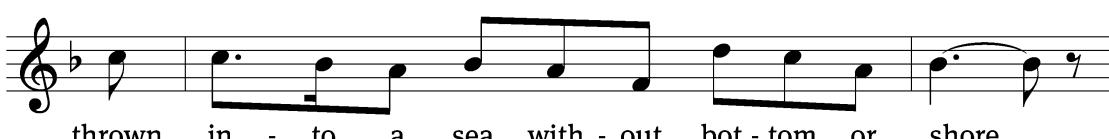
Congregation sings:



1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;



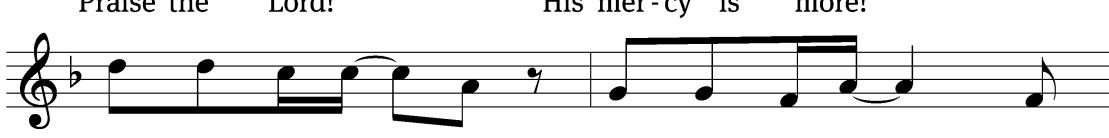
thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,



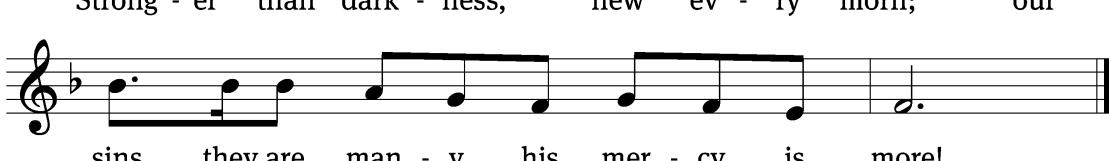
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.



Refrain
Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!



Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our



sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!



God's people long to gather together for strength from him and for mutual encouragement. In the 40 days of Lent, we focus on Jesus' mercy and tremendous sacrifice. It's a time for reflection, prayer, and to appreciate God's gift of salvation through Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.

M: Jesus invites us, “come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

C: O Lord, in humility we come. We are weary because our sins weigh us down, and there is no relief. We are burdened by the just sentence you placed upon our sinful disobedience, and there is no place to turn for reprieve.

Congregation sings:

2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,
what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.

Refrain

Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!
Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our
sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

M: Jesus assures us, that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C: O Lord, in mercy you sought us. You heard our desperate cry for rescue, and you secured the forgiveness of our sins. How blessed we are that your precious blood purifies us from all our sins and guilt.

M: It is only by grace through faith we can ever have the confidence to say, “I sought the Lord and he answered me. From all my terrors, he has delivered me. From all my distress he saved me. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is everyone who takes refuge in him.

Congregation sings:

3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;
his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
Refrain
Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!
Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn;
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

Text: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983 Tune: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983
Text and tune: © 2016 Getty Music Songs, Messenger Hymns, and Love Your Enemies Publishing, admin. MusicServices.org. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

Evening Prayer

M: O gracious Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have always loved us with an everlasting love. That love was displayed when you went the way of the cross. Daily lead us to acknowledge it was our sins and disobedience which made it necessary for you to suffer and die. Now, because of your undeserved mercy, we are free from our misery. Bless us as we worship you—together with your Father and the Spirit—our only true and saving God.

C: Amen.

The Passion History according to the Four Gospels Part 1—The Upper Room



A prayer this evening to ask for God to bless our worship.



During midweek Lent services, we read from the Bible a portion of Jesus' Passion history. The readings take us through the events of Holy Week—from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his crucifixion on the cross.



Confession of Faith: Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed

We confess the explanation from Luther's Small Catechism of the second article of The Apostles' Creed, which focuses on the second person of the Trinity, Jesus, and on the major elements of Jesus' story of our redemption – his birth, death and resurrection.

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.



This hymn follows the theme of the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

CWH 556

1 All man-kind fell in Ad - am's fall; one com - mon
 2 Through all our pow'rs cor -rup - tion creeps and us in
 3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, flow thoughts and
 4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came to bear our
 5 As by one man all man - kind fell and, born in

sin in - fects us all. From one to all the
 dread - ful bond - age keeps; in guilt we draw our
 deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the
 sin and woe and shame, to be our life, our
 sin, was doomed to hell, so by one Man, who

curse de - scends, and o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.
 in - fant breath and reap its fruits of woe and death.
 dark - ened soul nor seeks nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.
 light, our way, our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.
 took our place, we all were jus - ti - fied by grace.

Text: Lazarus Spengler, 1479–1534; (sts. 1–4): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915; (st. 5): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
 Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561 Text and tune: Public domain

The Misery of Mankind; The Mercy of Jesus

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).

Fear Appears and Takes Control

Genesis 3:1-13

'Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"'

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, ³ but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.’”

⁴ The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die. ⁵ In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was appealing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She gave some also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for their waists. ⁸ They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

¹¹ God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Fear is Removed through Perfect Love

1 John 4:12-18

¹² No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love has been brought to its goal in us. ¹³ This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. ¹⁶ We also have come to know and trust the love that God has for us.

God is love. Whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. ¹⁷ In this way his love has been brought to its goal among us, so that we may have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are just like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but complete love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who continues to be afraid has not been brought to the goal in love.

Fear Which Seizes the Heart is Removed

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks



This is a responsive prayer - a series of petitions spoken during an evening vespers service.

Evening Litany

(Spoken Responsively)

M: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,
Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God.

C: Have mercy on 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 agony, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: By your triumphant resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by the promised 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 last day of judgement:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: From all spiritual blindness; from self-pride and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of true Christ-like love; From all deadly sin and from the deceptions of the world, the flesh, and the devil; From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of the heart, and contempt for your Word and your will.

C: Good Lord , deliver 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: Have mercy on us.

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

C: Grant us your peace.

M: Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Christ, have mercy on us.

M: Lord, have mercy on us, and hear us as we pray:



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

The Lord's Prayer

(Spoken in Unison)

C: 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 unto the Lord.**
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

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.

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.*

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.



Distribution Hymn: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

CWH 557

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

1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, with ex - ul - ta - tion
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; death brood-ed dark - ly
3 My own good works a - vailed me naught, no mer - it they at -
4 But God be - held my wretch-ed state be - fore the world's foun -

spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed heart and voice and ho - ly
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; in sin my
tain - ing; my will a - gainst God's judg-ment fought, no hope for
da - tion, and, mind - ful of his mer - cies great, he planned for

rap - ture sing - ing, pro-claim the won - ders God has done, how
moth - er bore me. Yet deep and deep - er still I fell; life
me re - main - ing. My fears in-creased till sheer de - spair left
my sal - va - tion. A fa - ther's heart he turned to me, sought

his right arm the vic - t'ry won. How dear - ly it has cost him!
had be - come a liv - ing hell, so firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
on - ly death to be my share and hell to be my sen - tence.
my re - demp - tion fer - vent - ly; he gave his dear - est trea - sure.

**He spoke to his belovèd Son: "It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of my crown, and bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; slay bitter death for them that they
may live with you forever."**

**The Son obeyed his Father's will, was born of virgin mother,
and, God's good pleasure to fulfill, he came to be my brother.
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; a servant's form like mine he bore
to lead the devil captive.**

**To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me, I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be; for you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine, and evermore you shall be mine;
the foe shall not divide us.**

**"The foe will shed my precious blood, me of my life bereaving;
all this I suffer for your good; be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict'ry win; my innocence shall bear your sin,
and you are blest forever.**

**“Now to my Father I depart, the Holy Spirit sending
and, heav’ly wisdom to impart, my help to you extending.
He will a source of comfort be, teach you to know and follow me,
and in all truth will guide you.**

**“What I on earth have lived and taught be all your life and teaching;
so shall my kingdom’s work be wrought and honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one’s man-made laws
should e’er destroy the gospel’s cause; this final word I leave you.”**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt. Tune: Etlich Cristlich Lider, Wittenberg, 1524 Text and tune: Public domain

Evening Prayer

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your people, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness while praying with boldness and confidence, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



We close the service
asking God for the
peace only he can give.

The Benediction

M: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.

May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

C: Amen.



We are dismissed with
the words of 1 Thessalonians 5.

Closing Hymn: God Who Made the Earth and Heaven

CWH 787



1 God, who made the earth and heav-en, dark - ness and light:
3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep-ing, and, when we die,



you the day for work have giv - en, for rest the night.
may we in your might - y keep - ing all peace - ful lie.

May your an - gel guards de - fend us, slum - ber sweet your mer - cy
 When the last dread call shall wake us, then, O Lord, do not for -
 send us, ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us all through the night.
 sake us, but to reign in glo - ry take us with you on high.

Text (st. 1): Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.; (st. 3): Richard Whately, 1787–1863, alt. Tune: Welsh, 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Acknowledgments

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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.