

- **Carols Sing-Along** - Join members of all Wildfire churches for a Christmas sing-along event at Wicked Wort Brewery in downtown Robbinsdale on Monday, Dec 29th from 6-8 pm. Tables are reserved for the group. Friends and family (including leashed dogs!) are welcome. Join us for a fun night of food, drinks as you wish, fellowship, and singing.

- **Holiday Food Drive** - We'll continue to collect food through the end of Dec to share with neighbors through CAPI and CEAP. All non-perishable food items accepted, see Welcome Desk for a list of highest need items. Monetary gifts may also be made toward Second Harvest, which will support food shelves throughout the metro area. Thank you!

- **Synod Youth Choir** - Kids ages 5-18 are invited to take part in synod-wide choir. This is a great way to grow in relationship with one another, in musicianship, and in faith! Youth will gather at 10 AM on the last Sat of the month January-April 2026 (rotating location). They'll sing at Synod Assembly on May 2nd and have a spring concert on May 17th. Reach out to Pastor Ali to get involved!

- **Pastoral Care & Visitation** - If you're in need of care, prayer, or conversation, reach out to the office to be connected with the pastor or our Care & Visitation Team. We also invite you to stop by our Community Prayer Wall located just outside the sanctuary.



*Christmas at Cross of Glory*

All are welcome to join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus on Dec 24, at 4:00 pm at our Christmas Eve Worship. Coffee and cookies will be provided after the service.

*Silent night,  
holy night,  
Son of God,  
love's pure light.*

# "God With Us"

## A Christmas Re-telling in Story and Song



# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**December 14, 2025**

**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
Brooklyn Center, MN**

## “God With Us”

### A Christmas Re-telling in Story and Song

A special word of thanks to our music ensembles for leading us in song--both every week, but especially this week. We are so grateful to Mark Trease, Keith Williams, and all who share their gifts of music here at Cross of Glory for this special service, and for the ways their words and melodies remind us of the Good News of “God with us!”

## Gathering

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PROCESSION OF LIGHT

Haugen

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*\*\* Please rise as you are able \*\**

*\*\* Kids are invited to grab a light from the back the usher's table and join in the procession of light, which will end at the front of the sanctuary with the lighting of the Advent candle(s). Kids are invited to put their lights on the altar as a reminder of God's presence among us.*

Leader: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

**All: The light no darkness can overcome;**

L: Stay with us now, for it is morning;

**A: And the day is just beginning;**

L: Let your light scatter the darkness,

**A: And shine within your people here.**

### CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Joyous Light

Haugen

#### Verse 1

Joyous light of heavenly glory,  
loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story,  
shine on every land and race.  
Now as morning breaks around us,

we shall raise our songs to you,  
God of daybreak, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts anew.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Coffee Fellowship Hour** - All are welcome to stick around after worship for a time of food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Cookie Plates** - Stick around worship today to help assemble cookie plates that we'll be dropping off to many of our members. We need hands to help with both plating (immediately after worship in the fellowship hall) and delivering (Sunday afternoon or anytime in the couple days that follow!). Thanks to all who take part in this beloved holiday tradition!
- **Stewardship Thank You** - Thanks for your generosity in your 2026 financial pledges! Council is finalizing our proposed budget for the new year, so if you have not yet submitted your pledge, we invite you to do so this week. Even if you plan to continue giving online at the same rate, a pledge card indicating your intent to continue greatly helps leaders in our planning. Additionally, if you need an end-of-year statement to complete this year's pledge, let the office know. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving for the sake of God's gift of life together!
- **Midweek Advent Services** - Join the new creation churches for rotating Wednesday evening Advent services this season. Services include candlelight, prayer, reflection, and the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. The final service is this Wed 12/17 at COG at 6 PM. Please join us!
- **New Creation Community Meal** - Mark your calendars for third Wednesdays at 5:30 for a rotating potluck meal for members of FLW, First, and COG. This is a great way to get to know our neighbors as we explore the possibility of becoming a new creation. This month's community meal is Dec 17th at COG. This month we'll gather at 5 pm due to the 6 pm Advent service. Bring a dish to share as you're able and join us for this time of food and fellowship! \*Please let Carolyn Davis or Pastor Ali know if you can lend a hand with hospitality!
- **Monthly Isaiah 43 Update** - Join us after worship, next Sunday December 21st, for the 3rd Sunday Isaiah 43 team update. This is the team comprised of leaders across COG, Faith Lilac Way, and First Lutheran who are leading the exploration of becoming a new creation. At the monthly update, you can hear more about where the exploration is at, ask questions, and share feedback, questions, and ideas. These monthly updates take place during coffee fellowship hour.

## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik  
Director of Choirs: Keith J. Williams  
Worship & Tech Director: Mark Trease  
Vocalists: Becca Floyd, Johnetta Freeman, Erik Haugland, Kim Jacobson, Laura McClanahan, Kris Simon, Erik Thompson  
CoG Choir: Abby Simon Kelley, Amanda Smith, Becca Floyd, Carol Stejskal, Deb Olson, Denia Boakai, Dennis Olson, Erik Haugland, Kathy Swendiman, Kim Jacobson, Kris Simon, Marcy Hartlage, Marie King, Pam Gilbert, Ruth Brateng

Violin: Ali Tranvik  
Guitar: Josh Smith, Steve Sebald  
Narrators: Pam Gilbert, Erik Haugland, Abby Kelley, Mark Trease, Keith Williams  
Technical Team: Ryan Bailey, Dawn Bailey, Bill Bailey  
Greeters: Arlene Kosek, Steve Ferley  
Reader: Joe Balzer  
Ushers: Cheryl Anderson, Don Halverson, Kim Schoffstall, Jeffline Tolbert  
Fellowship: Bob Wertz, Ron and Lois Tollefsrud  
Ministers: The people of Cross of Glory

## Verse 2

In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,  
Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.

## Verse 3

You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way, loving spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

*\*\* Please be seated \*\**

## INVITATION TO CHILDREN

*Word*

### SCRIPTURE READING

**John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**



*Please join us in lifting up these brothers and sisters in prayer:*

*Mavis Wold  
Norma Gilbertson  
Audrey Swanberg  
Jeannie Kuzmich  
Eric Thompson & family  
Claudia Reitan*

*Becca and Donald Floyd  
Mark Trease  
Sharon Quick  
Jackie Fryhling  
Josh Day*

*To be added or removed from the weekly prayer list, please contact the church office ([office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us)) or call 763-533-8602.*

*You are welcome to stop at our community prayer wall just outside the sanctuary to place a written prayer in the wall. Further instructions are at the prayer wall.*

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG    Come Thou Long Expected Jesus    #254**

*\*\*To the tune of ELW 392\*\**

**Verse 1**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

**Verse 2**

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**NARRATION**

**Introduction**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

**God With Us**

**Ingram/ Jordan**

**Verse 1**

Oh, You've come to bring peace,  
to be Love,  
To be nearer to us.  
You've come to bring life,  
to be Light,  
To shine brighter in us.  
Oh Emmanuel, God with us.

**Verse 2**

Oh, You've come to be Hope  
to this world,  
For Your honor and name.  
And You've come to take sin,  
to bear shame,  
And to conquer the grave.  
Oh Emmanuel, God with us.  
*(Chorus 2x)*

**Chorus**

Our Deliverer, You are Savior.  
In Your presence  
we find our strength  
Over ev'rything, our Redeemer,  
God with us.  
You are God with us.

**Ending**

Oh God with us.  
You are God with us.

**NARRATION**

**God with Zechariah**

**CHOIR**

**As the Dark Awaits the Dawn**

**Schalk**

*As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light.  
O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, loving bright,  
Till shades of fear are gone.*

**Verse 2**

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

**Verse 3**

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his  
blessings flow

**Verse 4**

He rules the world  
with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

**RECESSION OF LIGHT**

*During the postlude song, kids are invited to get a light from the front altar and join in the recession of light, which will end at the back of the sanctuary--a reminder that we're called to take our lights out into the world, and that God's light goes with us.*

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace, God is with you.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**MUSIC CREDITS**

The Order of Service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship which is commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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on them light has shined.  
 You have multiplied exultation;  
 you have increased its joy;  
 they rejoice before you  
 as with joy at the harvest,  
 as people exult when dividing plunder.  
 For the yoke of their burden  
 and the bar across their shoulders,  
 the rod of their oppressor,  
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
 For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
 and all the garments rolled in blood  
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
 For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders,  
 and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
 Great will be his authority,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time onward and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG Joy To the World #267**

*\*\* Please rise as you are able. Kids are invited to grab an instrument from the basket up front and play along to the last song. \*\**

<b>Verse 1</b>	And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; Let ev'ry heart prepare him room	

*As the blue expectant hour before the silv'ring skies,  
 We long to see your day arise, whole and wise, whole and wise,  
 O lucent Morning Star.  
 As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease,  
 May we your healing light release, living peace, living peace,  
 Until your holy dawn.  
 Shine your future on this place, enlighten ev'ry guest,  
 That through us stream your holiness, bright and blest, bright and blest,  
 Come dawn, O Sun of grace.*

**NARRATION** **God with Mary**  
**CHOIR** **Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly** **Eggert**

*Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, virgin mother, undefiled.  
 Sing of God's own Son, most holy, who became her little child.  
 Fairest child of fairest mother, God the Lord who came to earth.  
 Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.  
 Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.  
 Toil and labor cannot weary, love enduring unto death.  
 Constant was the love he gave her, though it drove him from her side.  
 Forth to preach and heal and suffer, till on Calvary he died.  
 Glory be to God the Father; glory be to God the Son;  
 Glory be to God the Spirit; glory to the Three in One.  
 From the heart of Blessed Mary, from all saints the songs descend,  
 And the church the strain reechoes, unto earth's remotest ends.*

**NARRATION** **God with Elizabeth and John the Baptist**  
**CONGREGATIONAL SONG On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry #249**

<b>Verse 1</b>	for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!	
<b>Verse 2</b>	<b>Verse 5</b>
Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way	All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

**NARRATION**

**CHOIR**

*Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain made low.  
And the crooked made straight and the rough places plain;  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed;  
And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.*

**NARRATION**

**WORSHIP TEAM**

**Verse 1**

There's a story of a holy night  
in Bethlehem.  
It's the meaning still the reason why  
We worship Him.  
For God so loved the world.  
For God so loved the world.

**Chorus**

Glory, glory in the highest.  
The Light of the world has come.  
Holy, holy, this is Jesus,  
The face of unending love.  
How precious and perfect,  
Worthy of worship,  
Savior and Son  
sent down from above.  
(It's) God's gift to us.

**NARRATION**

**WORSHIP TEAM**

**Verse 1**

God the Son,  
Remaining what He was  
Became what He was not. Oh.

**God with Joseph**

**Beck**

**Every Valley**

**God with the Shepherds**

**Herms/Wong/Grant**

**Verse 2**

See the Alpha and Omega  
safe in Mary's arms.  
He is tender like a whisper  
To our broken hearts.  
For God so loved the world.  
(chorus)

**Bridge**

Wonderful, Counselor,  
mighty forever  
Father and Prince of Peace.  
Mercy unfailing, majesty reigning,  
Jesus, the King of Kings.  
Oh, Hallelujah, love has come.

**Ending**

Hallelujah, love has come.

**God with the Wise Ones**

**Bergthold/Taylor/  
Redman/Trotter**

**God the Son**

Flesh and blood,  
Heart and breath and bones,  
Just like one of us. Oh.

**Chorus**

Son of God,  
Son of man.  
O come, let us adore Him.  
So holy His name,  
So humble His crown.  
O come let us adore Him now.

**Verse 2**

From everlasting,  
Born here into time,  
Grace and truth arrived. oh.  
Completely human  
But still completely God.  
Still perfectly divine. Oh.

**NARRATION**

**WORSHIP TEAM**

**Verse 1**

Mary rides  
to the busy town of Bethlehem.  
Bears her child,  
then she lays him  
in a manger bed.  
God is born among us.

**Chorus**

Woah, Jesus is with us.  
Woah, filling the world with hope.  
Jesus is with us now.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

**Verse 3**

So love came down  
From power and majesty,  
Took on our frailty, oh.  
Eternal One,  
Invisible, now seen,  
Incarnate Deity. Oh.  
God the Son.

**Tag**

O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord.

**God With Us, and Us With Each Other**

**Jesus is With Us**

**Verse 2**

Shepherds wait in the quiet  
of a starry night.  
Heaven speaks  
And the glory of the Lord  
shines bright.  
Angels sing his praises. (chorus)

**Verse 3**

Wise men come  
from a far off land to honour him,  
Lay their gifts  
As they bow before  
the King of Kings.  
He will reign forever. (chorus)

**Juby**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**