



## Where You Meet Your Savior And Find A Friend

Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Monday Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Church (608) 742-5609

Pastor Scott Schultz (608) 617-8409

[www.portagelutheranchurch.org](http://www.portagelutheranchurch.org)

[crossofchristportage@hotmail.com](mailto:crossofchristportage@hotmail.com)



## Welcome

Here is some helpful information to guide your stay with us.

1. **Enjoy.** We feel blessed you came to Cross of Christ. Our worship service lasts about 60 minutes. Participate as much as you feel comfortable with.
2. **Restrooms.** We have one restroom in the back of church and a men's and women's restroom downstairs.
3. **Children.** Your children are welcome to worship with us regardless of their age. If you feel they are being too disruptive, we do have a **Parents Area** available downstairs with a television where you can watch the worship service.
4. **Offering.** You are welcome to give an offering, but you do not need to feel obligated to do so.
5. **Holy Communion.** Holy Communion will be offered at the end of the worship service. God's Word teaches in Holy Communion believers in Jesus not only receive bread and wine, but also Jesus' body and blood in a miraculous way for the forgiveness of their sins and the strengthening of their faith. If you are a guest, please talk to the pastor before you take Holy Communion. He would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## About Cross Of Christ

Cross of Christ is a Bible based church, which exists to give thanks to God for Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection by which God forgave all people of their sins and gives eternal life to all who believe in him. We do this by believing in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and sharing his Word with our community and the world.

## Sermon Series: **The Greatest Gift**

Many people spend countless hours shopping for the perfect gifts to give to people on Christmas. Sometimes these people love their gifts, but sometimes they do not. In this sermon series entitled, "The Greatest Gift" we are going to learn about the perfect Christmas gift our heavenly Father has given to us. This is the greatest gift we have ever received because it is not only a gift we loved but also one we needed. We will learn how the following reasons prove it is the greatest gift of all:

December 24 & 25: Hope Has Arrived

December 27 & 28: God Chose Us

December 31: **God's Love**

## **Order of Service**

**HYMN 72:1-3:** *"O Lord, Our Father, Thanks and Praise"*

- 1. O Lord, our Father, thanks and praise**  
**In this new year we render,**  
**For ev'ry evil had to flee**  
**Before you, our defender.**  
**Our life was nourished, we were fed**  
**With rich supplies of daily bread,**  
**And peace reigned in our borders.**
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, our thanks and praise**  
**In this new year we render;**  
**Your reign has kept your people free,**  
**Has shown your mercies tender.**  
**You have redeemed us with your blood;**  
**You are our joy, our only good,**  
**In life and death our Savior.**
- 3. O Holy Spirit, thanks and praise**  
**In this new year we render,**  
**For you have led our eyes to see**  
**Your truth in all its splendor**  
**And thus enkindled from above**  
**Within our hearts true faith and love**  
**And other Christian virtues.**

***Please stand***

**M:** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

**M:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you. During the past year my mind has entertained thoughts that it should not. My lips have spoken words that would have better been left unsaid. My hands and feet have done things and gone places where they ought not to have been. I am unworthy of anything good from you. I deserve to be punished for what I have done not just in this life, but also for all eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son, born to a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live and then to die as the sacrifice for our sins. 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.**

**HYMN 75:1:** *"Father, Let Me Dedicate"*

**1. Father, let me dedicate All this year to you,  
In whate'er my earthly state, In whate'er I do.  
Not from sorrow, pain, or care Freedom dare I  
claim;  
This alone shall be my prayer: Glorify your name.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Let us pray.

Eternal Father before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and on the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## ***Be seated***

### **FIRST LESSON**

**Isaiah 51:1-6**

*The Lord shows love to Israel by promising to bless her once again.*

- <sup>1</sup> "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness  
and who seek the LORD:  
Look to the rock from which you were cut  
and to the quarry from which you were hewn;
- <sup>2</sup> look to Abraham, your father,  
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.  
When I called him he was but one,  
and I blessed him and made him many.
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD will surely comfort Zion  
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;  
he will make her deserts like Eden,  
her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.  
Joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.
- <sup>4</sup> "Listen to me, my people;  
hear me, my nation:  
The law will go out from me;  
my justice will become a light to the nations.
- <sup>5</sup> My righteousness draws near speedily,  
my salvation is on the way,

and my arm will bring justice to the nations.  
The islands will look to me  
and wait in hope for my arm.  
6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
look at the earth beneath;  
the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment  
and its inhabitants die like flies.  
But my salvation will last forever,  
my righteousness will never fail. (NIV)

**PSALM 90** (on page 99 in the front of the red hymnal)

**C: (sing) REFRAIN: In ev'ry age, O Lord, you have  
been our refuge.**

**Lord, you have been our 'dwelling place\*  
throughout all gener'ations.**

**Before the mountains were born or you brought  
forth the earth 'and the world,\*  
from everlasting to everlasting 'you are  
God.**

**For a thousand years in your sight are like a day  
that has 'just gone by,\*  
or like a watch 'in the night.**

**REFRAIN: In ev'ry age, O Lord, you have been our  
refuge.**

**You have set our iniquities be'fore you,\*  
our secret sins in the light of your 'presence.**

**You turn mortals 'back to dust.\***

**You sweep them away in the 'sleep of death.**

**The length of our days is seventy years-or  
eighty, if we 'have the strength;\***

**yet their span is but trouble and 'sorrow.**

**Teach us to number our 'days aright,\***

**that we may gain a heart of 'wisdom.**

**REFRAIN: In ev'ry age, O Lord, you have been our  
refuge.**

**Satisfy us in the morning with your un'failing  
love,\***

**that we may sing for joy and be glad 'all our  
days.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son\***

**and to the Holy 'Spirit,**

**as it was in the be'ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**



**REFRAIN: In ev'ry age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

**SECOND LESSON**

**1 Peter 1:22-25**

*Since the Lord showed love for us by making us born again, we are to love one another.*

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For,

"All men are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers  
of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
<sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord stands  
forever."

And this is the word that was preached to you. (NIV)

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**Psalm 119:105**

**M:** Alleluia. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Alleluia. (NIV)

***Please stand***

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 13:6-9**

*In Jesus' parable the gardener shows love to a fig tree by asking the vineyard's owner to give the tree another year to bear fruit.*

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

<sup>8</sup> "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down. (NIV)

**C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!**

***Be seated***

**HYMN 69:1-3: "Across The Sky The Shades Of Night"**

- 1. Across the sky the shades of night  
This New Year's Eve are fleeting.  
We deck your altar, Lord, with light,  
In solemn worship meeting,  
And, as the year's last hours go by,  
We raise to you our earnest cry,  
Once more your love entreating.**

2. **We gather up in this brief hour  
The mem'ry of your mercies.  
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r  
Our grateful song rehearses,  
For you have been our strength and stay  
In many a dark and dreary day  
Of sorrow and reverses.**
  
3. **Before the cross, subdued, we bow,  
To you our prayers addressing,  
Recounting all your mercies now  
And all our sins confessing.  
We ask you, Lord, this coming year  
To keep us in your faith and fear  
And crown us with your blessing.**

**SERMON LESSON**

**1 Peter 1:22-25**

## **“God’s Love”**

### **OFFERING**

(If you would like to donate to Cross of Christ’s ministry, you can go to [www.portagelutheranchurch.org](http://www.portagelutheranchurch.org) and click the Donate button on the Home page.)

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

***Please stand***

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

**C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

**M:** It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

**M:** You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

**C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

**M:** Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

**C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

**M:** We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

**C: Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**M:** Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**C: We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(sing)* **And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** *(sing)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C:** *(sing)* **It is good and right so to do.**

**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, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**C:** *(sing)* Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## **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:** *(sing)* Amen.

## **O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**

**C: (sing) O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

***Be seated***

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN 313:**

***"Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"***

- 1. Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,  
Turned away God's wrath forever;  
By his bitter grief and woe  
He saved us from the evil foe.**
- 2. As his pledge of love undying,  
He, this precious food supplying,  
Gives his body with the bread  
And with the wine the blood he shed.**
- 3. Jesus here himself is sharing;  
Take heed how you are preparing,  
For if you do not believe,  
Judgment instead you shall receive.**



- 4. Useless would be Jesus' passion  
If salvation you could fashion.  
Do not come if you suppose  
You need not him who died and rose.**
- 5. 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."**
- 6. 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.**
- 7. 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.**
- 8. If your heart this truth professes  
And your mouth your sin confesses,  
Surely you will be his guest  
And at his banquet ever blest.**

***Please stand***

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**M:** Father in heaven, in this new year keep us faithful to the work you have given us to do. Let the world know we are your disciples through the love we show to one another. Keep our light shining brightly so that others see our good works and glorify you. Fill us also so full of the joy of our salvation that we cannot help telling others about you. We pray this in Jesus' name.

**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.**

**HYMN 71:1-3:** *"The Old Year Now Has Passed Away"*

- 1. The old year now has passed away;  
We thank you, O our God, today  
That you have kept us through the year  
When danger and distress were near.**

2. **We pray you, O eternal Son,  
Who with the Father reigns as one,  
To guard and rule your Christendom  
Through all the ages yet to come.**
  
3. **Take not your saving Word away,  
Which lights and cheers our souls each day.  
Abide with us and keep us free  
From error and hypocrisy. Amen.**

***Be seated***

**The Common Service:** Texts revised from The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941. Music from The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, revised by James Engel.;

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**Hymn 69:** Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

**Hymn 313:** Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

**Hymn 71:** Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

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## Take The Next Step

We are so glad you took a big step and joined us for worship. You may be wondering what your next step is for connecting to Cross of Christ. Here are some options:



**Come back for worship next week.** Attending worship services is very important for people to grow in their faith in Jesus.



**Set up a time to meet.** Call or email the church office. We would be happy to set up a time to answer your questions and to share more about Cross of Christ's ministry with you.



**Enroll in "Starting Point".** This is a class environment designed for every guest to discover (or rediscover) the foundational teachings of the Bible and how they apply to their lives. Talk to the pastor if you are interested in attending.



**Stay Connected.** Stay connected with us online at [www.portagelutheranchurch.org](http://www.portagelutheranchurch.org), on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter.

## This Week At Cross of Christ (December 31, 2020 - January 3, 2021)

Thursday	7:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Worship w/ Lord's Supper
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Lord's Supper
	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:15 a.m.	Christmas Decorations Removal
	10:45 a.m.	The Christian in Today's World Bible Study
	11:30 a.m.	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

**Serving God This Week.** December 31, 2020

Hymnsoft player: Dave Kreklow (Thursday)

Ushers: John Otto (C), Ken Ryczek, Marv Timm, Gerry Gast, Caleb Schultz (Thursday)

Altar Committee: Nona Lione & Sandra Beimborn (Thursday)

Offering Counters: Vacant (Thursday)

## Announcements

**New Year's Eve Service.** There will be a New Year's Eve worship service with Holy Communion on Thursday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend!

**Decoration Removal.** On Sunday, January 3 at 10:15 a.m., we will remove all the Christmas decorations from church. Everyone is invited to come and help!

**10 For 10 Notes.** Please place your 10 For 10 commitment cards in the offering plates as you walk into church. These cards will not be opened. They will be placed on the altar for ten weeks and then returned to you unopened for your prayerful reflection. Please also fill out the new Time and Talent surveys you were given and place them in Bonnie Dorniak's mailbox at church.

**Cross of Christ Mission Statement Committee.** At the November 1 Quarterly Voters' meeting, it was decided to create a committee to develop a Mission Statement for the church. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, contact Pastor Schultz.

**EHV Bibles.** We have 2 brand new copies of the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) Bible which members of the Wisconsin Synod produced in the church library in the fellowship hall. Make sure to check them out.

**Bulletins.** Please take your bulletin home with you after church and do not put it back because of COVID-19.

**Used Items.** On the table in the fellowship hall are electronic items that Cross of Christ no longer needs. They include a Google Chromecast, a colored printer, a black and white printer, a mouse and keyboard. Anyone may take these items. A freewill donation is appreciated.

**Advent Devotion Booklet.** We have received "Christ is the World's Light, an Advent Devotion booklet from Martin Luther College. Please take one to follow day by day through the month of December until Christmas.

**Forward in Christ and Meditations.** You can pick up the new Meditations and Forward in Christ in the back of church.