



### 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.

## 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 55:1-3: *"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"***

- 1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels. Oh,  
come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
- 2. God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,  
Only begotten Son of God the Father. Oh, come, let  
us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore  
him, Christ the Lord.**
- 3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation; Sing, all  
ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, All glory in the highest. Oh, come, let  
us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore  
him, Christ the Lord.**

***Please stand***

## **GREETING**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY RESPONSIVE READING**

**M:** Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger. But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

**M:** Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this holy day. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

**C:** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**M:** We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

**C:** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**M:** We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

**C:** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**M:** We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

**C: *Glory to God in the highest!***

**M:** Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

**C: *Glory to God in the highest!***

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: *Amen.***

***Be seated***

## SERMON LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (NIV)

### **"Hope Has Arrived"**

(you can follow along with the Sermon Notes sheet)

## **Part 1: God Promised to Send The Greatest Gift**

**HYMN 67:** *"What Child Is This"*

- 1. What child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of  
Mary!**

- 2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;  
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son  
of Mary!**
- 3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings Salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high;  
The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is  
born, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

Recitations

Chase Maas

Ellinor Statz

Eli Schultz

Naomi Schultz

Kortnie Askey

Ayden Davis

Jameson Graham

Addisyn Crawford

Cale Newman

# **Part 2: God Prepared His People To** **Receive The Greatest Gift**

**HYMN 60:** *"Silent Night! Holy Night"*

- 1. Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so  
tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the  
sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heav'nly hosts  
sing, Alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**
- 3. Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure  
light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of  
redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Recitations

Dalton Maas

Sam Newman

Pearl Newman

Preston Maas

Ellinor Statz



# **Part 3: The Greatest Gift Has Arrived**

## **HYMN 68: *"Away in a Manger"***

- 1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he  
lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.**

### Recitations

Alex Heckmann

Jax Hendershot

Will Newman

Avery Davis

# Part 4: The Greatest Gift Was Given To All People

**HYMN 61:** *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*

- 1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**
- 2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**3. Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Recitations

Creed Newman

Logan Hendershot

Connor Beahm

Luca Beahm

Emerson Statz

Caleb Spillner

Newman children

Ethan Graham

Ayden Davis

Derrick Van Deursen

Addisyn Crawford

Kortnie Askey

Eli Schultz

Chase Maas

**HYMN 57:1-3: "Go Tell It On The Mountain"**

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and  
ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus  
Christ is born.**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent  
flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy  
light.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and  
ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above  
the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's  
birth.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and  
ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**
- 3. Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was  
born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas  
morn.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and  
ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

## 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:** Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

**C:** **On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

**M:** You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

**C:** **Bless us with a childlike faith with the assurance that you love and care for us always.**

**M:** You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

**C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

**M:** You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the "joy that will be for all people" be our joy. May the "peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests" be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

**C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. 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.**

**M:** May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

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

**C: Amen.**

## **HYMN 62:1,2,4: *"Joy to the World"***

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

- 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.**
- 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. Amen.**

***Be seated***

**Lessons and Carols:** A service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24<sup>th</sup> and written by Eric Milner-White.

**Hymn 55:** Text, Tune, Setting: public domain. Descant and harmony for st. 3,4 by David Willcocks. Reprinted by permission of Oxford University Press.

**Hymn 67:** Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

**Hymn 60:** Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

**Hymn 68:** Text and Tune: public domain. \*Setting: c 1993 Mrs. James E. Engel. Used by permission.

**Hymn 61:** Text, Tune, Setting: public domain. Descant and harmony for st.3 by David Willcocks. Reprinted by permission of Oxford University Press.

**Hymn 57:** Text: From American Negro Songs and Spirituals. c 1940. Reprinted with permission of Mrs. Edith M. Work. Tune and Setting: public domain.

**Hymn 62:** Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-717790.



## 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.

## Sunday School Children

**Pre-Kindergarten:** Connor Beahm, Luca Beahm, Pearl Newman, Caleb Spillner, Ellinor Statz, Derrick Van Deursen

**Kindergarten:** Ethan Graham, Logan Hendershot, Emerson Statz

**First Grade:** Creed Newman

**Second Grade:** Avery Davis, Dalton Maas, Will Newman, Jax Hendershot

**Third Grade:** Jameson Graham, Alex Heckman

**Fourth Grade:** Naomi Schultz

**Fifth Grade:** Preston Maas, Sam Newman

**Sixth Grade:** Kortnie Askey, Ayden Davis, Addisyn Crawford, Cale Newman, Eli Schultz

**Seventh Grade:** Chase Maas

## This Week At Cross of Christ (December 24 - 28, 2020)

Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Worship ( <i>w/ Kids' Connection</i> ) <i>No Sunday School or Bible Study</i>
Next Monday	7:00 p.m.	Worship

**Serving God This Week.** December 24, 25, 2020

Hymnsoft player: Dave Kreklow (Thursday, Friday)

Singers: Dave Kreklow & Cheryl Nicholson

Ushers: William Eckert (C), Joshua Veglahn, Gabriel Veglahn, Samuel Veglahn (Thursday, Friday),

Altar Committee: Nona Lione & Sandra Beimborn (Thursday, Friday),

Audio/visual technicians: Sandy Ryczek & Caleb Schultz (Thursday), Aaron Miller (Friday)

Offering Counters: Vacant (Thursday & Friday)

## 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!

**Vacation.** Pastor Schultz and his family will be on vacation from December 26 — 30. If you need any spiritual assistance, you can call Pastor Schultz on his cellphone. His number is 608-617-8409.

**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.

**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.

# Sermon Notes

**Sermon Series:** The Greatest Gift

**Sermon Theme:** Hope Has Arrived

**Sermon Text:** Titus 2:11-14

## Introduction

What is the greatest Christmas gift we ever received?

## The Greatest Christmas Gift

- Came 2,000 years ago in a \_\_\_\_\_ in Bethlehem.
- Is a baby boy, named \_\_\_\_\_.

## Jesus' is the Greatest Gift

- Because he has given us a certain \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because he has given us the hope we are \_\_\_\_\_ from our sins.
- Because he has given us the hope of \_\_\_\_\_ from our troubles.
- Because he has given us the hope of eternal \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.

## Since Jesus, the Greatest Gift, Gave us Hope

- We eagerly live \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ lives.
- We daily \_\_\_\_\_ to God to thank him.
- We gladly \_\_\_\_\_ him in church.