



FOR IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED,
THROUGH FAITH—AND THIS NOT FROM
YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.
EPH 2:8-9

December 25th, 2014
The Festival of Christmas



We Have Seen His Glory

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH & LEARNING CENTER

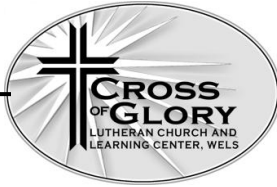
5500 STUMBERG LANE, BATON ROUGE, LA 70816

CHURCH: 225-752-5503

PASTOR STEVEN HAHM

PASTOR@CROSSOFGLORYLUTHERAN.COM

WWW.CROSSOFGLORYLUTHERAN.COM



Church: 752-5503
Steven Hahm, Pastor
pastor@crossofglorylutheran.com

Learning Center: 752-5504
Tiffany Myers, Director
www.crossofglorylutheran.com

Welcome! We are glad you are here with us today. Our service today follows an order of worship which places the spotlight on God’s Word and its central message of peace through Jesus. You can follow the outline of the service in this worship folder. The hymn numbers refer to the red hymnal: Christian Worship (CW) or the blue hymnal: Christian Worship Supplement (CWS).

PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM

OPENING HYMN.....Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (#55 vv. 1-2)

The baptismal party gathers at the font.

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

C: Amen.

The minister speaks the introduction and then says:

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart † to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

PRAYER

M: Let us pray.

The minister says the prayer.

C: Amen.

M: Let us confess the faith of the Church, the faith into which Belle has been baptized, the Apostles’ Creed:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The minister says to the parents:

M: Before the Lord I ask you, was Belle Marie Oubre baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

P: Yes.

The minister, laying his hand on the one baptized, says:

M: The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven.

May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

EXHORTATION TO PARENTS

M: Dear parents, our Lord Jesus Christ, in instituting Baptism, not only commanded that children should be baptized, but that they should be taught to obey everything he has commanded us. I therefore ask you:

Do you sincerely intend to bring up Belle in the way of the Lord and to instruct her in the truths of God's saving Word so that she may grow in faith, serve God with a Christian life, and remain in her baptismal grace unto the end? If so, answer: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

P: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

EXHORTATION TO CONGREGATION

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love, therefore, urges all of us to assist in whatever manner possible so that Belle may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

C: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

BAPTISMAL CANDLE

A baptismal candle is lit from the Christ candle:

M: Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Light this candle again and again in years to come on anniversaries of Belle's baptism, and recall what God has done for her through the gift of his Son and through Baptism which unites her with Jesus in his death to sin and resurrection to new life.

PRAYER

M: Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Belle as your own child and made her a member of Christ's body, the Church. Now, we pray, grant to her and to all your Church on earth that being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness, and being buried with Christ into his death, we may also be partakers of his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord † Jesus Christ, strengthen you by his Spirit, that Christ, dwelling in your hearts by faith, may fill you with all spiritual blessings. Go in peace.

HYMN..... Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (#55 vv. 3-4)

OPENING CAROL SING

#63 – What Child Is This?

#61 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CHRISTMAS LITANY

M: For to us a child is born,

C: To us a son is given,

M: And the government will be on his shoulders.

C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

M: A Savior has been born to you.
C: **He is Christ the Lord.**
M: Glory to God in the highest!
C: **And on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: As we approach God in worship we confess our sins:
C: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalm 51:1-5)**
M: "God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) "In him (God's Son) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins." (Ephesians 1:7)
 Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

HYMN..... "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We" (CW # 46)

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 52:7-10

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion. "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people He has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God."

HYMN..... "Joy to the World" (CW # 62)

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and

the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son: today I have become your Father?' Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?' And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' In speaking of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.' But about the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.

ANTHEM.....“Glorious Light”

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

HYMN.....“Fullness of Grace”

SERMON: “We Have Seen His Glory”

OFFERING

The members of Cross of Glory are happy to support its ministry with their financial gifts. If you are visiting us today, do not feel obligated to give an offering.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

HYMN.....“Go Tell It on the Mountain” (CW # 57)

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN.....Where Shepherds Lately Knelt (CW # 54)
