

*Important questions for*

**L E N T**

*Why is Lent so important?*

**Lent 1**

*Sunday, March 1, 2020*



**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School**

**Church Phone: 623-224-8839 School Phone: 623-224-8841**

**[www.crossofglory.org](http://www.crossofglory.org)**

**Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor**

**Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor**



**Jomax Campus**  
10111 W Jomax Road,  
Peoria, AZ 85383  
**Sat. 6pm and Sun. 9am Worship**

**Vistancia Campus**  
Lake Pleasant Elementary School  
31501 N. Westland Road  
Peoria, AZ 85383  
**Sun. 9:30am Worship**

**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.

### **Families with children:**

- We invite children (*ages 3 to 4<sup>th</sup> grade*) to take part in our “**Children in Church**” program. Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. So, for the beginning and end of the service, we encourage parents to guide their children through the service. At the indicated time, children can come forward to hear a special children's message at the feet of the pastor. If parents wish, the children can then sit in the area set up for them at the front-right section of the worship hall, where they will find age-appropriate and spiritually focused activities to work on during the regular sermon. At the time of the offering, children return to sit with their parents. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!



## **Worship** focus

On Ash Wednesday, we began our forty day journey to the cross, a journey of repentance and prayer, of remembrance and renewal of our baptism. Lent represents about 11% of the church year—why is it we focus that much time on this subject which represents a short period of time in Jesus's life? The answer is that the focus for Lent actually spans from the Garden of Eden and culminates in the empty tomb.

Each Sunday in Lent we will be asking an important question for Lent. This week we ask, “**What is the best of all blessings?**”. For that answer we will travel back to the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve's fall into sin.

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## Service of Celebration and Reverence

### OPENING HYMN

By Faith 4 V/s.

By faith we see the hand of God In the light of creation's grand design  
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness  
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth With the power of His promise in their hearts  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand  
A place where peace and justice reign.

#### *Refrain:*

We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

By faith the prophets saw a day When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the power to break the chains of sin and death  
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith this mountain shall be moved And the power of the gospel shall prevail  
For we know in Christ all things are possible  
For all who call upon His name *[Refrain]*

### WE APPROACH GOD

*(Spoken Responsively; Sung songs of response—"Triune God" and "Melodic Gloria)*

M: O Creator, to you darkness is light, and a thousand years is as a day. Before we speak, you know our thoughts.

**C: There is no place we can flee from your sight.**

M: O most holy Lord, our relationship with you requires a personal integrity we do not have. We are cut to the heart to realize that you judge every thought, word and action.

**C: We have been arrogant to challenge your laws. We have been foolish to excuse our lust for more as a basic human need. We have blamed our unhappiness on others. Our self-centeredness is the worst affliction on earth and we no longer deny it.**

M: O God of wisdom, we have wandered from your ways. We do not deserve leniency. The only thing we possess is our guilt.

**C: O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we can speak your name only because you are the God of grace. Jesus came to be the sacrificial Lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. Because you have gathered all the lost, we plead: "Be our Shepherd."**

*(Sung by Congregation)*

**Triune God your love has found me; you have brought me to this place. And you  
promised you will lead me, safely home by your good grace.  
Jesus sought me, a lost wanderer, cut off from the fold of God;  
He to rescue me from danger, Bought me with his precious blood.  
To your grace now I'm a debtor; daily I'm in need of you!  
Let your mercy like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to you.  
Prone to wander, such a sheep I am; prone to leave your shepherd's love.  
So I pray: "Please make me your lamb; heal me for the life above!"**

M: The Triune God knows our needs. He remembers that we are dust. He gloried in doing for us what we do not deserve. Before we existed, the Father sent his one and only Son to trade places with a world of sinners. In the fullness of time, Jesus packaged his honor in humility and was born into our world. By His flawless life and innocent death, he ransomed the world from sin, Satan and damnation. The Holy Spirit raised him back to life to guarantee that we who trust these truths are God's children and heirs of heaven.  
Amen.

*(Sung by Congregation)*

**Glory to the God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord.  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God, the Father.  
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

## **CATECHISM REVIEW**

**7th and 8th Commandments**

M: You shall not steal.

*What does this mean?*

**C: We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.**

M: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?*

**C: We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*(Spoken by Minister)*

M: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## FIRST LESSON

*Romans 5:12-19*

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—<sup>13</sup>To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. <sup>15</sup>But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup>Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! <sup>18</sup>Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. <sup>19</sup>For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

## PSALM 130

*(Sung Responsively)*

M: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

**C: O LORD, hear my voice.**

M: Let your ears be at-ten-tive

**C: To my cry for mer-cy.**

M: If you, O Lord, kept a re-cord of sins,

**C: O LORD, who could stand?**

M: But with you there is for-give-ness;

**C: Therefore you are feared.**

M: I wait for the LORD in his Word I put my hope.

**C: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morn-ing.**

M: O, Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

**C: For with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re-demp-tion.**

**All: Glory be the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it,**

**as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be forever. A-men.**

## GOSPEL LESSON

*Matthew 4:1-11*

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

 SERMON HYMNEvery Promise of Your Word 4 *Vs.*

**From the breaking of the dawn to the setting of the sun,**

**I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**Words of power, strong to save, that will never pass away,**

**I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**For Your covenant is sure, And on this I am secure—**

**I can stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in,**

**I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**You are faithful to forgive that in freedom I might live,**

**So I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**Guilt to innocence restored, You remember sins no more—**

**So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**When I'm faced with anguished choice, I will listen for Your voice,**

**And I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**Through this dark and troubled land**

**You will guide me with Your hand**

**As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**And You've promised to complete Ev'ry work begun in me—**

**So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**Hope that lifts me from despair, love that casts out ev'ry fear,**

**As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**Not forsaken, not alone, for the Comforter has come,  
And I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.  
Grace sufficient, grace for me, Grace for all who will believe—  
We will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.**

**SERMON**            **Important Questions for Lent: *Why Is Lent So Important?***            *Gen.3:1-15*  
*Because of the reality of sin ~ Because of sin's results ~ Because of God's rescue from sin*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” <sup>4</sup>“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” <sup>11</sup>And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” <sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, ‘Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’”

**APOSTLES' CREED**

*(Spoken in Unison)*

**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 Ensemble will sing Vs. 1 and the Congregation will join for Vs. 2 & 3*

*To see the King of heaven fall In anguish to His knees,  
The Light and Hope of all the world Now overwhelmed with grief.  
What nameless horrors must He see, To cry out in the garden:  
Oh, take this cup away from me Yet not my will but yours, Yet not my will but yours.*

**To know each friend will fall away, And heaven's voice be still,  
For hell to have its vengeful day Upon Golgotha's hill.  
No words describe the Savior's plight – To be by God forsaken  
Till wrath and love are satisfied And every sin is paid And every sin is paid.**

**What took him to this wretched place, What kept him on this road?  
His love for Adam's cursed race, For every broken soul.  
No sin too slight to overlook, No crime too great to carry,  
All mingled in this poisoned cup, And yet he drank it all, The Savior drank it all.**

## **THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *and* 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 OF THE ALTAR**

### **GREETING**

*(Spoken Responsively)*

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*(Spoken by Minister)*

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 peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF SACRAMENT

*(Please refer to “Worship Welcome” in chair pocket)*

*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 at the podium at the sanctuary entrance.. Thank you for honoring our practice.*

## SONG OF SIMEON

*(Sung by Congregation)*

**In peace, Lord, in peace, you let your servant now depart according to your word,  
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for ev'ry people, a  
light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel. In peace, in peace.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

*(Spoken by Minister)*

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

*(Spoken by Minister)*

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.**

**ENSEMBLE**

**Go My Children With My Blessing**

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace.  
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace.  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.  
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace







**Cross of Glory** was planted by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) in March 1998 so that with the Gospel of Jesus she can strengthen the faith of her members and reach out into the community with the free gift of salvation. First worship services began at Easter 1999; the dedication of our Ministry Center at Easter, 2005. On Easter of 2017, we began services at our second site in the Vistancia community. Our synod's name reflects that her founders began in the state of Wisconsin. As a WELS church we still hold to the teachings of the Bible restored in the Reformation era. We are...

- a Christ-preaching church. We preach that Jesus is true God, the Son of God who became man, so that through his perfect life and innocent death, He is the prophesied “Lamb of God” who has taken away the sin of the world.
- a Bible-believing church. We teach that the Bible is the verbally inspired, inerrant Word of God, the only authority for Christian faith and life. We aim to teach God's Word in all its truth and simplicity.
- an evangelical church. We trust the Bible's claim that God saves people through the power of the Gospel in the Word and Sacraments. The Gospel is the Good News (the Evangel) about Jesus' saving work. The WELS has congregations throughout the USA and around the world to share the Evangel, the Bible's primary message, with all people.
- a people-caring church. That we're all sinners equally saved by Jesus' substitutionary work strips away human judgments and egos. This truth also empowers us to live Jesus' love for all people by offering friendship, support, and Biblical counseling. Our church family cares about other people-- including you.

Our Preschool & Elementary School exists to help parents in their God-given duty of teaching the Faith to their children: an important aspect of our Church's plan to grow a comprehensive womb-to tomb ministry that serves souls for eternity.