

An Earnest Plea...

S E E K
the

L O R D

ISAIAH 55:6-11

Pentecost 9
Sunday, August 2, 2020



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

623-224-8839

www.crossofglory.org

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor

Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor

Blessed to be a member of



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 Cross of Glory’s online worship! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament, and we recognize that this can happen via technology as well as in a physical building. Thank the Lord for blessing us with the means to continue worshipping together in this way! As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus’ peace and power fill you.

Please take the time to note some things about how worship will work online:

Attendance – We would still like to gather an accurate account of who is worshipping with us for each service. Please let us know you are worshipping by commenting in the chat box. List your full name (first and last) in your message.

Chatting and discussing – Before and after each service, there is time available to chat with others. We invite you to do so, as this is a way we can preserve the sense of community we have on a normal Sunday morning. We do ask that you keep chatting to a minimum during the service, so that others can focus on what’s happening.

Giving – Please continue to give your attention to the gifts God asks you to give to support his work. During the time of the offering, an encouragement will be given to give electronically. You can do so by clicking the menu icon (3 horizontal bars) in the upper left corner, next to where it says Cross of Glory Lutheran Church. Then click the word “Giving” to go to our Vanco page. You can also give by scanning the QR code in the bulletin with your phone’s camera, or by mailing a check to us at 10111 W Jomax Rd, Peoria, AZ 85383. Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time!



God bless our time together in worship today!



There is not much we can count on during these days of this pandemic. . We can’t count on being able to obtain the things we need, plan ahead or do the things we want to do. Conversely, in our sermon text today based on Isaiah 55, we are advised to “Seek the Lord”. The fact is that we could never count on anyone or anything even before the pandemic—God is the only one on whom we can truly rely. When we seek the Lord, we see the vastness of his grace and that his Word accomplishes his will—and what amazing transformation he makes in us through his Word.

Acknowledgements Scripture taken from **THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Worship and Hymns sourced from Christian Worship (CW) © 1993 and/or Christian Worship Supplement (CWS) © 2008 by Northwestern Publishing House (NPH). All rights reserved. These and all other sources are used by permission under One License.net License # A-711716 and/or CCLI License # 1852086 and # CSPL136078 (Video).**

 **OPENING HYMN**

How Firm a Foundation (CWS768) 4 Vs.

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

“Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed;
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!

“Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love,
And then, when gray hair shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still on my shoulders be borne.”

GREETING

(Spoken Responsively)

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 AND ABSOLUTION

(Spoken Responsively)

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 in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in 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 to be the atoning 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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

(Spoken/Sung Responsively)

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy,
hear our prayer, O Lord:

C: Lord have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage
to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their
worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord:

C: Lord have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your
tender care.

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C: *(Congregation Sings)*

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.

You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;

you make us pure and holy in your sight.

You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us,

you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Prayed by Minister)

M: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything
that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

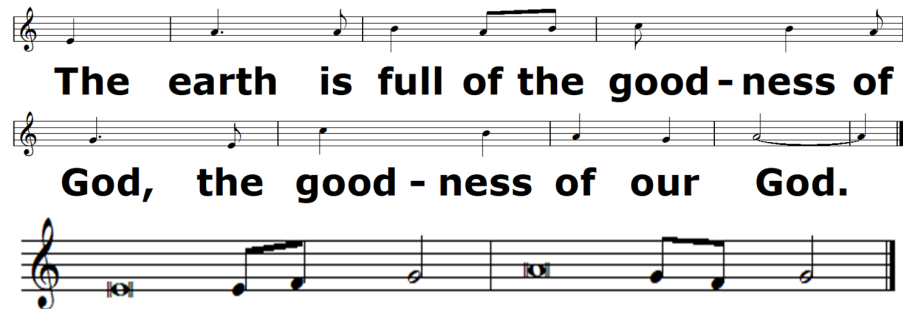
1 Corinthians 3:5-11

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—
as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has
been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only

God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

PSALM 65

(Sung Responsibly)



Refrain

M: Praise awaits you, O God,

C: You call forth songs of joy;

M: You care for the land and wa-ter it;

C: You soften it with showers and bless its crops.

M: The streams of God are filled with wa-ter

C: To provide the peo-ple with grain.

Refrain

M: You crown the year with your boun-ty,

C: And your carts overflow with a-bun-dance.

M: The grasslands of the desert o-ver-flow;

C: The hills are clothed with glad-ness.

M: The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are man-tled with grain;

C: They shout for joy and sing.

ALL:

Glory be to 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.

Refrain

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia. *(Isaiah 55:11b)*

(Sung by Congregation)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.” ¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.



SERMON HYMN

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast *(CW324) 4 Vs.*

**Almighty God, your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend And righteous fruits abound.**

**Let not the foe of Christ and man This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.**

**Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.**

**Whene'er the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow'r may know.**

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

CD recordings of sermons freely supplied for study or sharing. Please request on the Friendship Card

THE NICENE CREED

(Read in Unison)

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



SONG OF THE SEASON

Oh How Good It Is 3 V.s.

Oh how good it is when the family of God
Dwells together in spirit In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence here among us.

Refrain:

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out His word

Till the whole earth sees The Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy And weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength The afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing Of belonging. *[Refrain]*
Oh how good it is To embrace His command
To prefer one another Forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father And the Spirit.. *[Refrain]*

THE OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER

(Prayed by Minister)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken by Minister)

LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken by Congregation)

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Prayed by Minister)

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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.

 CLOSING HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown (CW322) 3 Vs.

On what has now been sown Your blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is yours alone To make it spring and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise And you alone shall have the praise!
To you our wants are known; From you are all our pow'rs.
Accept what is your own And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive And to your Word a blessing give.
Oh, grant that each of us Now met before you here
May meet together thus When you and yours appear
And follow you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

PERSONAL PRAYERS FOR COMMUNION

Before Communing

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communing

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

August 4th 6:00pm	Evangelism Meeting
August 4th 7:00pm	Elders Meeting
August 5th 2:00pm	Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)
August 8th 6:00pm	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
August 8th 6:00pm	Vistancia Facebook Live
August 9th 9:00am	Betsy Collins Installation
August 9th 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
August 9th 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
August 9th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

LOOKING AHEAD

August 11th 6:00pm	Tierra Del Rio South HOA(S)
August 11th 6:30pm	Church Council
August 12th 2:00pm	Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)
August 15th 6:00pm	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
August 15th 6:00pm	Vistancia Facebook Live
August 16th 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
August 16th 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
August 16th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

Jomax Worship Volunteers	August 2nd	August 9th	August 16th	August 23rd
Counters	Wempner/Schirripa	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner/Freeman	Wempner/Wilson
Cleaners	Kelley/Moe	Ebel/Koutia	Grams	Piepenbrink Pappenfuss
Communion Set-up	Sharon Kull	Lynn Wempner	Corinne Julian	Susie Cornell
Ushers	Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers Grant Stern John Wempner Kelly Simpson	Cody Hall Larry Kennedy Zach Plitzuweit Tanner Plitzuweit	Steve Julian Bill Grams John Kull Paul Pappenfuss

Announcements

****We are in search of a janitor for the school. This is a Paid position. Please notify Liz if you know of anyone that would be willing to help with this task.

****New Meditations are by the Mail boxes.

****New to the website is a page of spiritual and educational [resources](#). Included are free Sunday School lessons for children.

**** Please check our web page the most up to date information regarding Cross of Glory and the coronavirus/ COVID-19.

**** We have several options for you to worship during these times. You may go to crossofglory.online.church to view our online services or worship in person (Jomax Campus) at the normal 9:00 am service time. You may also watch Saturday service live on Facebook Cross of Glory-Vistancia or in person (Jomax Campus) at 6:00pm. All of our Services can be found for later viewing on our website under the Message tab, either Facebook Site or YouTube.

ONE CHURCH....TWO LOCATIONS

JOMAX CAMPUS - NEWS

Voters Meeting

Sunday, August 2nd 10:30am

Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)

Wednesdays at 2:00pm

(Please let Liz know if you would like to attend)



VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

Voters Meeting

Sunday, August 2nd 10:30am

Weekly Devotion (Via Zoom)

Sundays at 6:00pm

(Please Contact Pastor Ehlers if you are interested in attending)

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

For members and friends with noteworthy blessings, difficulties or health issues. Today we especially remember in our prayers and ask God to give strength, comfort and courage to them and their families.

Velta Larson, as she mourns and rejoices that her sister Coleta Corey has gone to heaven.

Bill Grams, Who is recovering from hip replacement Surgery after taking a tumble on his bike.

Mary Lou Cannon, as she recovers from surgery on her wrist.

Cathy Mundstock, Give thanks for a successful surgery and prayers for a swift recovery.

Linda Stern, as she undergoes treatments for breast cancer.

Juanita Word, who is recovering at home after a broken leg.

Gerry Ehlers, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and undergoes treatments.

MILITARY

E4 Specialist Alice Henderson, granddaughter of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at San Antonio, TX Ft. Sam Houston Army base in Medical Institute of Surgery Research: Burn Unit.

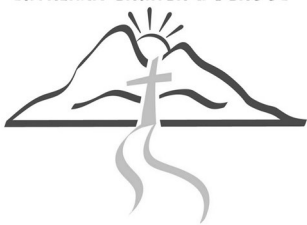
E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

Major JD Larson, son of John & Chi Larson, based at Kirkland AFB in New Mexico.

Sara (Dan) McArdle, daughter of Martha (Scott) Wofford, Air Force Pilot, based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Sgt. Blake Andrew Nelsen, son of Rick & Karyn Nelsen and brother of Seri & Lilli, USMC.

Ben Weyer, serving in the military. Currently deployed to the Persian Gulf. Please pray that our Heavenly Father keeps him safe in his journey.



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.