

The Christian Answers Doubt with Faith

Pentecost 13
Sunday, August 30, 2020
Full Script



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

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

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 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!



The clouds of doubt can gather in our lives at anytime. Faith can rise and fall like the waves of the sea. Doubt can pull our eyes of faith away from Jesus. In the sermon text today, Jesus asks Peter, "Why did you doubt?" Peter gave no answer. What could he say? With Jesus there is never any need to doubt. How sad that we so often do! Rather, let us focus on the Savior and watch our faith swell as the disciples' did when their doubts vanished, and they gave the greatest evidence of faith: they worshipped that man from Nazareth for what he truly was, the Son of God.

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*).

Service of the Word

OPENING HYMN

Almighty Father, Strong to Save (CW517) 4 Vs.

Almighty Father, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep:
Oh, hear our earnest, humble plea For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain O'er which our traffic runs amain
By mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, your people go,
Protect them by your guarding hand From ev'ry peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent To spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by your might Save all who dare the eagle's flight
And keep them by your watchful care From ev'ry peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and pow'r, Your people shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them all where'er they go;
Thus ever more to you shall be Glad praise from air and land and sea.

GREETING

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and his Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

(Spoken Responsively)

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

(Sung by Congregation)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Congregation Sings:

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens,**

**your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 19:9-18

There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” ¹¹ The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” ¹⁵ The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

PSALM 18

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

C: My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

M: He reached down from on high and took hold of me;

C: He rescued me from my powerful enemy.

M: He brought me out into a spacious place;

C: He rescued me because he delighted in me.

M: You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;

C: My God turns my darkness into light.

M: You save the humble

C: But bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

M: You give me your shield of victory,

C: And your right hand sustains me.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND LESSON

James 1:2-8, 12

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. ¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister; Sung response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia. *(Hebrews 4:12)*

Sung by Congregation:

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



SERMON HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved (CW384) 4 Vs.

**By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why waver at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
So then this word must true remain: By grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.**

**By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died, your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought him from his heav'nly throne.**

**By grace! Oh, mark this word of promise When you are by your sins oppressed,
When Satan plagues your troubled conscience, And when your heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend God by his grace to you did send.**

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice.
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad; all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

SERMON

The Christian answers doubt with faith

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

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.



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

(Spoken by Minister)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken by Minister)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken in Unison)

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

Amazing Grace (CW379) 4 Vs.

Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound--That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

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.

ONE CHURCH....TWO LOCATIONS

JOMAX CAMPUS - NEWS

Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)

Wednesdays at 2:00pm
(Please let Liz know if you would like to attend)



VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

Vistancia Zoom Call

Sunday 7:00pm

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

September 1st 6:00pm	Evangelism Meeting
September 1st 7:00pm	Elders Meeting
September 2nd 10:00am	Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)
September 5th 6:00pm	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
September 5th 6:00pm	Vistancia Facebook Live
September 6th 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
September 6th 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
September 6th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

LOOKING AHEAD

September 7th	No School
September 8th 6:30pm	Church Council
September 9th 10:00am	Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)
September 12th 6:00pm	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
September 12th 6:00pm	Vistancia Facebook Live
September 13th 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
September 13th 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
September 13th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

School Starting

During school hours Adults should be prepared to wear a mask when visiting campus.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	August 30th	September 6th	September 13th	September 20th
Counters	Wempner/Brooks	Wempner/Schirripa	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner/Freeman
Cleaners	Martins/Ehlers	Patterson	Grams	Kelley/Moe
Communion Set-up	Lynn Wempner	Susie Cornell	Sharon Kull	Lynn Wempner
Ushers	Steven Julian Bill Grams John Kull Paul Pappenfuss	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers Grant Stern John Wempner Kelly Simpson	Chris Patterson Caleb Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson

Announcements

******New meditations have arrived and are located in the communications center. Please let Liz know if you would like one put in your mailbox.**

****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.

Discipleship Sunday

This Sunday is Discipleship Sunday, the day when we normally set opportunities to serve and be fed by God's Word before the congregation. Because of COVID-19 concerns, we recognize not everyone is around this Sunday. We still put out various sign-ups, but we will also send out the sign-ups via email this week so that people who aren't here in person can still sign up.

Some opportunities to serve won't be available until things return to normal, but we want to gather interest anyway. We are also seeking interest for growth groups. People are able to indicate their interest in meeting in person for small group study, or online. Specific groups will be formed after we see the level of interest in one or the other.

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.

Donna Ditter, Mother of Elizabeth Simkauskas, as she recovers from reconstructive and knee replacement surgery.

Linda Stern, thanksgiving for her recovery from 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.

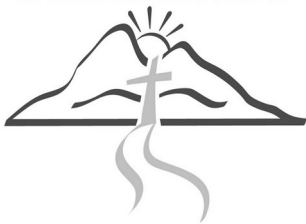
E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

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.

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.