

# Who is Jesus of Nazareth?

### Pentecost 15 Sunday, September 13, 2020 FULL SCRIPT



### Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

623-224-8839

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 worshiping 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 worshiping with us for each service. Please let us know you are worshiping 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!



"Who is Jesus?" In our sermon text today, the disciples rattled off the popular misconceptions, one is struck by how illustrious that list actually was. There were no slouches in that group. But they didn't even begin to compare with the truth. Many people today give similar answers: they call Jesus a teacher, a philosopher, the founder of a religion, an agent of change. Their answers miss the mark as widely as the answers of the people in the Gospel. Only disciples of Jesus, through the work of the Spirit of God, can confess him as he truly is.

Could Peter's answer be any better? You are the Anointed One, the one set apart by God and prophesied by Scripture, the Promised Seed who would save us from sin. But even more than that, Peter showed that the disciples confessed him to be the Son of the living God. You, Jesus of Nazareth, are the Son of the God who is life and who gives life. This living God is the hope of every sinful man ever since Adam in the face of death named his wife "Life," because through her womb would come the Seed who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Now here, in the flesh, stood the Son of the living God whose mission was to restore life to this world of death. This truth is the rock on which the Church stands. Because it stands on the rock and not on the pebbles of men who serve it, the Church will stand forever: its message is changeless; the ramifications of its work are eternal.

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#### Service of Worship and Praise

#### OPENING HYMN

For Builders Bold Whose Vision Pure (CWS775) 3 Vs.

For builders bold whose vision pure Saw more than brick or stone,

Who laid in hope foundations sure With Christ the cornerstone;

For those who honored your commands And trusted your strong Word,

Who offered faithful hearts and hands, We give you thanks, O Lord.

As here they raised a soaring spire Which thrusts toward worlds above,

So may our prayers, like tongues of fire, Leap kindled by your love.

And let your living Word descend As seed on waiting hearts

And, fruitful, there its grace extend To earth's most distant parts.

We come, O Lord, inheritors From those whose work is done.

Lord, make us now contributors To years beyond our own.

Let faith's enkindled flame not fail; Let love's best gifts increase.

Let hope in Christ's sure Word prevail Till earth and time shall cease.

#### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

(Read/Sung Responsively)

M: We gather for worship the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

#### C: Amen.

M: As believers in Christ we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James we are told, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for one another so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

C: Lord, I pray to you because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from you and others by the sin in my life. I need your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me; and by the power of your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. Amen.

Congregation Sings:

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

You are the Potter. I am the clay; Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

You are the Potter. I am the clay; Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

M: We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, "He sent me to announce for-

giveness to the prisoners of sin, to restore sight to the blind, to bring mercy to lives shattered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord." God gave his only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord. We live in his power, energized to tell of his peace.

#### C: Amen.

Congregation Sings:

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way;

from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave;

From the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way;

from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave;

From the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

FIRST LESSON Exodus 34:5-9

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation." <sup>8</sup> Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. <sup>9</sup> "Lord," he said, "if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."

PSALM 138 (Spoken Responsively)

M: I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;

C: Before the "gods" I will sing your praise.

M: I will bow down toward your holy temple

C: And will praise your name

M: For your unfailing love and your faithfulness,

C: For you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.

M: When I called, you answered me;

C: You greatly emboldened me.

M: May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,

C: When they hear what you have decreed.

M: May they sing of the ways of the LORD

C: For the glory of the LORD is great.

M: Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;

C: Though lofty, he sees them from afar.

M: Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

C: You preserve my life.

M: You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;

C: With your right hand you save me.

M: The LORD will vindicate me; your love, LORD, endures forever—

C: Do not abandon the works of your hands.

#### THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)

SECOND LESSON Romans 10:5-13

<sup>5</sup> Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." <sup>6</sup> But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup> "or 'Who will descend into the deep?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

#### SERMON HYMN

The Church's One Foundation CW538) 4 Vs.

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;

She is his new creation By water and the Word.

From heav'n he came and sought her To be his holy bride;

With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;

Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.

One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,

And to one hope she presses, With ev'ry grace endued.

The Church shall never perish. Her dear Lord, to defend, To guide, sustain, and cherish, Is with her to the end. Though there be those that hate her And strive to see her fail, Against both foe and traitor She ever shall prevail.

Mid toil and tribulation And tumult of her war She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

#### **SERMON**

#### Who is Jesus of Nazareth

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

#### THE 2nd Article OF THE APOSTLE'S CREED

(Read Responsively)

- M: 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.
- C: 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.
- M: What does this mean?
- C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.
- M: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.
- C: All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

I Run to Christ 3 Vs.

I run to Christ when chased by fear And find a refuge sure.

"Believe in me," His voice I hear; His words and wounds secure.

I run to Christ when torn by grief And find abundant peace.

"I too had tears," He gently speaks; Thus joy and sorrow meet.

I run to Christ when worn by life And find my soul refreshed.

"Come unto Me," He calls through strife; Fatigue gives way to rest.

I run to Christ when vexed by hell And find a mighty arm.

"The Devil flees," the Scriptures tell; He roars, but cannot harm.

I run to Christ when stalked by sin And find a sure escape.

"Deliver me," I cry to Him; Temptation yields to grace.

I run to Christ when plagued by shame And find my one defense.

"I bore God's wrath," He pleads my case—My Advocate and Friend.

#### THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

#### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER (Sung by Congregation)

Sung by Congregation:

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.

BLESSING (Spoken by Minister)

M: 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** 

You are the Rock of My Salvation

#### 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 VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)

Wednesdays at 10:00am (Please let Liz know if you would like to attend)

> <u>Father – Daughter Event</u> September 18th, 5:00pm

Women's Bible Study September 22nd, 9:30am



Vistancia Zoom Call

Sunday 7:00pm

New River Growth Group September 14th, 6:30pm

### THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

September 14th 6:30pm New River Growth Group

September 15th 9:30am Women's Bible Study

September 16th 10:00am Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom) September 16th 11:30am Early Dismissal—Teacher Inservice

Septemper 18th Father – Daughter Event

September 19th 6:00pm Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion

September 19th 6:00pm Vistancia Facebook Live

September 20th 9:00am Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion

September 20th 9:00am Worship Service (Online)

September 20th 10:30am Sunday Morning Bible Study Christian Freedom

September 20th 6:00pm Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

### LOOKING AHEAD

September 22nd 9:30am Women's Bible Study

September 23rd10:00am Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)

September 24th 7:00pm Board of Ed September 25th-27th Men's Retreat

September 26th 6:00pm Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion

September 26th 6:00pm Vistancia Facebook Live

September 27th 9:00am Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion

September 27th 9:00am Worship Service (Online)

September 27th 10:30am Sunday Morning Bible Study Christian Freedom

September 27th 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	September 13th	September 20th	September 27th	October 4th
Counters	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner/Freeman	Wempner/Wilson	Wempner/Brooks
Cleaners	Grams	Ebel/Moe	Kelley/Koutia	Plitzuweit/Alcoba/ Peterson
Communion Set-up	Sharon Kull	Lynn Wempner	Susie Cornell	Sharon Kull
Ushers	Gary Jeffers Grant Stern John Wempner Kelly Simpson	Chris Patterson Caleb Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson	Cody Hall Larry Kennedy Zach Plitzuweit Tanner Plitzuweit	Steve Julian Al Alcoba Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson

# Father- Daughter Event

We are changing things up this year to fit the time. This year we have chosen a Father-Daughter date/scavenger hunt instead of the annual father daughter dance to help social distancing. We are looking for volunteers. Even if you don't have a daughter, you can still help. We would like to highlight businesses and bless those that may have suffered shutdown. Sign-up is in the weekly news to help out and/or attend or contact Liz to sign up.

### Men's Retreat

This year the Men of COG are going off the grid September 25th-27th. This whole retreat will be spent outside with plenty of room to social distance. To learn more about the presenter and to sign up please contact Pastor Ehlers or view the weekly news.

### 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 <u>resources</u>. 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 out Services can be found for later viewing on our website under the Message tab, either Facebook Site or YouTube.

## Discipleship Sunday

Last Sunday was 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 was around last 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.

# Sunday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Foxen and Pastor Ehlers will take turns teaching Sunday Morning Bible Study. The topic for this Bible Study is Christian Freedom. All are welcome to join. The class will start Sunday, September 13th, at 10:30am.

#### Treasurer's Report

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School For the Period Ending August 31, 2020 (\$000) All amounts in thousands of dollars

Category	7/1/2020 - 8/31/2020 Actual	7/1/2020 - 8/31/2020 Budget	Favor- able / (Unfavor- able)
Jomax Inflow	48.9	41.2	7.7
Jomax Outflows	54.9	53.7	(1.2)
Surplus / (Deficit)	(6.1)	(12.5)	6.5
Vistancia Inflow	29.9	30.0	(0.1)
Vistancia Outflows	22.7	30.0	7.3
Surplus / (Deficit)	7.2	0.0	7.2
School Inflow	94.0	96.0	(2.1)
School Outflows	95.1	95.5	0.4
Surplus / (Deficit)	(1.1)	0.6	(1.7)

Congregation Funds Statement								
Operating Funds	06/30/20 Balance	Surplus (Deficit)	08/31/20 Balance	Internal Loan	Adjusted Balance			
General Fund-Jomax	(99.1)	(6.1)	(105.1)	105.1	-			
General Fund-Vistancia	27.8	7.2	35.0	-	35.0			
Preschool & LES	(0.3)	(1.1)	(1.4)	1.4	-			
<b>Sub-Total Operating Funds</b>	(71.5)	0.0	(71.5)		35.0			
Non-Operating Special Funds								
500 Anniv. Bldg Capital Fund	360.1	6.9	367.0	(106.5)	260.5			
School Stabilization Fund	37.5	-	37.5		37.5			
All Other Special Funds	40.6	(1.0)	39.6		39.6			
Sub-Total Special Funds	438.2	5.9	444.1		337.6			
<b>Total Congregation Funds</b>	366.7	5.9	372.6		372.7			

#### **Treasurer's Comments**

- 1) Jomax YTD deficit of \$6.1k is \$6.5k lower than budgeted. However increased Jomax offerings are necessary to balance Jomax budget.
- 2) School YTD deficit of \$1.1k. Enrollment and tuition are higher than budget. It is anticipated that the School will have positive cash-flow this year.
- 3) Vistancia YTD surplus \$7.2k.
- 4) Internal loan from 500th Anniverary Fund to Jomax and School operating accounts totals \$106.5k.
- 5) Prayerful consideration of our stewardship commitment is necessary by all members. Pray that God will motivate us now and during our upcoming fall Stewardship campaign.

(detailed reports are available upon request)

### 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 and Joel Ditter, as she recovers from reconstructive and knee replacement surgery.

**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-tobe 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.