

Lent 1 Sunday, February 21, 2021



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 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!



Imagine if on a daily basis you treated a person like dirt—using all your energy to inflict pain and suffering on him. And then, one day you find yourself imprisoned and condemned to death for all evil you have done, and this individual offers up his only beloved son to die on your behalf. Would you believe it? Who would do such a thing? Unfathomable!

And that is why Lent is so beautiful. It is the story of unbelievable love of God in the sacrifice of his own Son for the likes of us, miserable sinners. Having given his Son, and having performed the miracle of giving us faith to believe it, how could we ever again doubt his love? Bring on the terrors of life and death! Let the past haunt us and the present scare us and the future terrify us! It is all meaningless; the love of God in Christ leaves us at peace and secure and gives us the victory over death!

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Service of Word & Sacrament

OPENING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is our God | CW201 4 Vs.

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;

He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'ertaken.

The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;

Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected.

But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.

You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,

The almighty Lord. And there's no other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,

We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.

This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,

He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done! One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain, Nor any thanks have for it;

He's by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.

And do what they will -- Hate, steal, hurt, or kill --

Though all may be gone, Our victory is won; The kingdom's ours forever!

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.

- 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.

Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 22:1-18

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ²Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." ³Early the next

morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." 15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

PSALM 25 (Spoken Responsively)

M: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;

C: In you I trust, O my God.

M: Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,

C: For they are from of old.

M: Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me,

C: For you are good, O LORD.

M: Turn to me and be gracious to me,

C: for I am lonely and afflicted.

M: Look on my affliction and my distress

C: And take away all my sins.

M: Guard my life and rescue me;

C: For I take refuge in you.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

VERSE OF THE DAY (Spoken by Minister)

M: It is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only." (Matthew 4:10b)

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:12-15

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. ¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

SERMON HYMN

In Christ Alone | CWS752 4 Vs.

"In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song; This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My comforter, my all in all—Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied; For ev'ry sin on Him was laid— Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain; Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me; For I am His and He is mine— Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death— This is the pow'r of Christ in me; From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand; Till He returns or calls me home— Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand."

SERMON

Lent Means Victory for God's People

Romans 8:31-39

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or

famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

His Robes for Mine $\mid 4 \mid V_s$.

Soloist sings Vs. 1 & 2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3 & 4

His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange! Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage. Draped in His righteousness, I'm justified. In Christ I live, for in my place He died.

Refrain:

I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost: Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God. Bought by such love, my life is not my own. My praise-my all-shall be for Christ alone.

His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread? God's daunting Law Christ mastered in my stead.

Faultless I stand with righteous works not mine, Saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life. [Refrain]

His robes for mine: God's justice is appeased.

Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.

Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried "Tis done!"

Sin's wage is paid; propitiation won. [Refrain]

His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.
Christ, God's beloved, condemned as though His foe.
He, as though I, accursed and left alone;

I, as though He, embraced and welcomed home! [Refrain]

THE OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER

(Prayed by Minister)

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

(Sunday Service)



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.



The love of Christ, who died for me Is more than mind can know, His mercy measureless and free To meet the debt I owe. He came my sinful cause to plead, He laid his glories by, For me a homeless life to lead, A shameful death to die. My sins I only see in part, My self regarding ways; The secret places of my heart Lie bare before his gaze. For me the price of sin he paid; My sins beyond recall Are all alike on Jesus laid, He died to bear them all.

O living Lord of life, for whom The heavens held their breath, To see, triumphant from the tomb, A love that conquers death, Possess my heart that it may be Your Kingdom without end, O Christ who died for love of me And lives to be my friend.

Position Available

Our finance manager position is available, and we are receiving applications in the office. The deadline for applications is March 1. If you're interested in the position, you can see the full job description in the weekly news. Applications can be picked up at the church office.

This position requires proficiency in MS Office and accounting software such as QuickBooks. The responsibilities include church/school accounting and billing; providing monthly reports for the treasurer, pastors and principal; and ability to learn new programs such as TADS and Realm. This person will be working directly with the treasurer to make sure all financial activity is organized and searchable.

Church Cleaners

Cross of glory is in need of a few more church cleaners for the rotation. If you are able to help please contact Liz to add you to the rotation. If we have enough people the rotation is once every two months.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	February 28th	March 7th	March 14th
Counters	Wempner/ Freeman	Wempner/ Sasse	Wempner/ Brooks
Cleaners	Patterson/Pappenfuss	Martins/ Ehlers	J. Kelley/ Grams
Communion Setup	-	Lynn Wempner/ Shannon Gullerud	-
Ushers	Verl Naber Al Alcoba Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers John Wempner Aaron Gullerud

Aguilar Moving Day

The Aguilar family will be closing on their house on March 4th and are Planning to move in on March 6th. We are looking for a group of helping hands to help unload the moving truck. If you are able to help please let us know by signing up or letting the pastors know.

Midweek Lent Worship

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. The theme for this year is *The Hands of the Passion*. When we consider Jesus and the people around him in his Passion, we can't help but think of their hands—the hands that beat their breast, accepted money for betrayal, petulantly swung swords, pointed in accusation, beat and disavowed, praised, washed, were pierced, and offered eternal life. In short, we can't help but think about how we sinners have had the same sinful hands of those who surrounded Jesus in his Passion, and how Jesus our Savior has touched us with his hands of grace.

During Lent we will have services each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. As we've done in the past, the pastors in our circuit will be rotating among our churches, giving us the opportunity to hear others preach and get to know them a little bit.

We will be offering in-person worship as well as the opportunity to watch online. There are a number of ways to watch online:

- 1. 1.1 Those who have Facebook will be able to watch the services live at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Go to the Cross of Glory Vistancia Facebook page.
- 2. We will also make a recording of the service and put it up on YouTube and the Cross of Glory website. However, that recording won't be available until the Thursday after the actual service, due to time required to upload it. Once it is uploaded, it can be watched at any time on our <u>YouTube channel</u> or <u>website</u>.
- 3. For those who watch on our <u>church online platform</u>, the midweek services will be scheduled to play on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. Watching this way allows you to worship and chat with others at the scheduled time.

Whatever method you choose, please let us know that you're worshiping with us by leaving a comment or sending us an email. This helps us keep track of attendance. Also, please note that there will be no soup suppers this year.

Thank you, and may God bless your Lenten meditations as we focus on the suffering and death of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Vistancia News

Great news to share! Early December we applied for some grant money to help families in need in our mission field. Our request was granted, and our new approach to meeting and helping people will be kicked off February 27. We are partnering with Christian Family Solutions, a WELS counseling service, to educate and assist members of our community that are struggling with the stresses associated with our new state of living right now. We will kick off the work with a seminar on resiliency as it relates to the stresses we are facing. This program is called Cornerstone and assists congregations to reach out and help those in need. It will be held at Jomax Campus from 9:00 to 3:00. Lunch from The Diner food truck will be provided. Learn More in the Weekly News and go on our website to register.

We will be starting worship February 14 at 9:30 a.m. at my home in Vistancia in person and Zoom. The address is: 12786 W Burnside Trl, Peoria, AZ 85383.

To God be praise and glory! Pastor John Ehlers

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

February 22nd 6:30 p.m. New River Growth Group February 22nd 6:30 p.m. Grams Growth Group February 22nd 6:30 p.m. Pastor Foxen Growth Group February 23rd 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

February 24th 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

Lenten Service Facebook Live February 24th 7:00 p.m.

February 25th 10:00 a.m. Mom's Growth Group Catechism Study Hall February 25th 4:00 p.m.

February 25th 5:00 p.m. Catechism

February 25th 6:30 p.m. BIC Class - Pastor Foxen

February 25th 7:00 p.m. Board of Ed February 26th 6:00 p.m. Mother-Son Event February 27th 9:00 a.m. Cornerstone Event February 27th 6:00 p.m. Worship Service (Jomax)

Worship Service Facebook Live February 27th 6:00 p.m.

February 28th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (Jomax) February 28th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Online February 28th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Vistancia)

February 28th 10:30 a.m. Sunday Bible Study

LOOKING AHEAD

March 1st 6:30 p.m. Grams Growth Group

Pastor Foxen Growth Group March 1st 6:30 p.m.

March 2nd 6:00 p.m. Evangelism Meeting Elders Meeting March 2nd 7:00 p.m. March 3rd 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

March 3rd 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service Facebook Live

March 4th 10:00 a.m. Mom's Growth Group March 4th 4:00 p.m. Catechism Study Hall

March 4th 5:00 p.m. Catechism

March 4th 6:30 p.m. BIC Class - Pastor Foxen March 6th 6:00 p.m. Worship Service (Jomax)

March 6th 6:00 p.m. Worship Service Facebook Live

March 7th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service w/Communion (Jomax)

March 7th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Online

Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia) March 7th 9:30 a.m.

March 7th 10:30 a.m. Sunday Bible Study

Books For Sale

The women's Bible study group completed the study of "In God's Orchard: Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life." If you are interested in doing the study on your own or would like to give the book as a gift, you may contact Liz in the church office to purchase one for \$12.

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.

Anna Burke, Grandmother of Delia Akao as she battles advanced Liver cirrhosis. Bring comfort and strength to her and her daughter caring for her.

Karen Juardo, as she recovers at home after her recent hospitalization.

Michelle Zane, as she undergoes knee replacement revision on February 23rd.

Judy Sasse, as she recovers from a broken wrist and stitches on her face from a fall.

Marilyn Bagwell, sister of Sharon Kull, was recently diagnosed with cancer. May the Holy Spirit continue working in her heart and protect and care for her and perhaps cure her if that is his will.

Juanita Word, who is recovering at home after a fall.

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.