

# THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

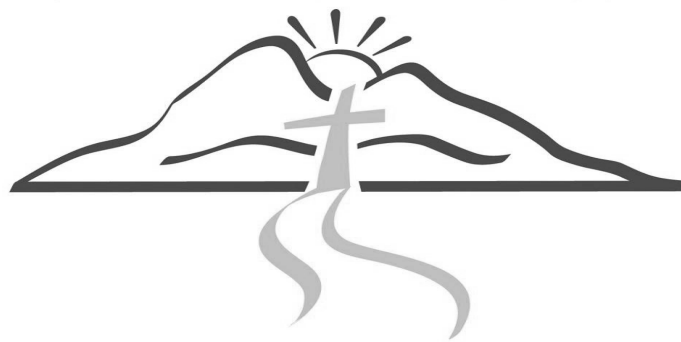
*is the Wisdom and Power of God*

**1 COR 1:18-25**

*Lent 3*

*Sunday, March 7, 2021*

**Full Script**



**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School**

**623-224-8839**

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

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor

Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor

**Jomax Campus**

10111 W Jomax Road,

Peoria, AZ 85383

**Sat. 6pm and Sun. 9am Worship**

**Vistancia Campus**

Lake Pleasant Elementary School

31501 N. Westland Road

Peoria, AZ 85383

**Sun. 9:30am Worship**

Welcome to 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!



God's plan of salvation that lead to his Son dying on the cross does not seem reasonable to the finite bounds of the human mind. The Jews of Jesus' days were not really satisfied with the mirror of the Savior they heard in the temple. They wanted the repetition of the spectacular miracles of the Exodus, even though they knew that those miracles did not create a saving relationship with God. That happened only through the promise of the Savior in the Word and in bloody sacrifices that pictured his work. The Greeks wanted another Socrates or another Aristotle, even though a thousand philosophers who followed them could bring no peace to the conscience or reason for life. The salvation desperately needed by both Jews and Greeks and all the rest of humanity is to be found only in submission to God's solution to our need, in the temple and wisdom of God. We see it and receive it in the weakness of the cross and the power of the Word.

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## Service of the Word and Lord's Supper

### OPENING HYMN

To Your Temple I Draw Near | CW226 6 V.s.

To your temple I draw near; Lord, I love to worship here.  
Here are sacrament and Word; Here believers meet their Lord.

I through Christ am reconciled; I through Christ become your child.  
Abba, Father, give me grace In your courts to seek your face.

While your glorious praise is sung, Touch my lips, unloose my tongue,  
That my joyful soul may bless Christ the Lord, my righteousness.

While I listen to your law, Fill my soul with holy awe  
Till your gospel brings to me Life and immortality.

While your ministers proclaim Peace and pardon in your name,  
Through their voice, by faith, may I Hear you speaking from the sky.

From your house, when I return, May my heart within me burn,  
And at evening let me say, "I have walked with God today."

### 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 God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; 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**

*Exodus 20:1-17*

And God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. <sup>12</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>“You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>“You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>“You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

**PSALM 19**

*(Sung Responsively)*

**Lord, you have the words of**  
**ev - er - last - ing life.**

*Refrain*

M: The heavens declare the glo-ry of God;

**C: The skies proclaim the work of his hands;**

M: Their voice goes out into all the earth,

**C: Their words for the ends of the world.**

*Refrain*

M: The law of the Lord is per-fect,

**C: Giving joy to the heart.**

M: The commands of the Lord are ra-di-ant,

**C: Giving light to the eyes.**

M: They are more pre-cious than gold;

**C: they are sweeter than hon-ey.**

M: By them is your ser-vant taught;

**C: In keeping them there is great re-ward.**

*Refrain*

M: May the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart

**C: Be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Re-deem-er.**

**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)*

M: Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. *(John 3:14, 15)*

### GOSPEL LESSON

*John 2:13-22*

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup>So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus an-

swered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” <sup>20</sup> They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

 **SERMON HYMN**

**Lift High the Cross** | *CW579 3 Vs.*

*Refrain:*

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. [Refrain]**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory. [Refrain]**

**SERMON**

**The Message of the Cross is the Wisdom  
and Power of God**

*1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” <sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

**NICENE CREED**

*(Spoken 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 | 4 V/s.

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  
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER

*(Spoken by Minister)*

**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 My Heart Imprint Your Image** | *CW319 0 Melody: CW147 1 V.s.*

**On my heart imprint your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Have no pow'r to hide your face.  
This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation.**



## Classroom Assistant Position

We are looking for a part-time assistant for our third- and fourth-grade classroom. This is a paid position. The days are Tuesday through Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please request an application from the secretary and direct questions to Pastor Foxen.

## Finance Manager Position

Our finance manager position is available, and we are receiving applications in the office. The deadline for applications is March 15th. 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.

## Vistancia Marketing Position

A part-time Vistancia marketing position is available. The job will require 5 to 10 hours per week at \$15 per hour. The candidate needs skills to post to social media, develop ads for Vistancia Living Magazine, and produce materials for events. The candidate should be willing to attend church in Vistancia on a regular basis and also attend events with the purpose of getting pictures and videos for posting on social media. This person would work with Pastor Ehlers to make sure there is a steady stream of activity on our social media pages. Please request an application from our secretary, and direct any questions to Pastor Ehlers. Deadline for applications is March 15th.

## Private Communion

During this time, many have been watching our worship services online. We're glad we have this capability so that people can worship the way they are most comfortable. Unfortunately, people who watch online do not have the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper. If any would like to receive Communion in the home, please contact the office or one of the pastors, and one of them will happily set up a time to visit you so you can partake of this sacrament.

## 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. Contact Liz at [cog.secretary@crossofglory.org](mailto:cog.secretary@crossofglory.org).

Jomax Worship Volunteers	March 14th	March 21st	March 28th
Counters	Wempner/ Brooks	Wempner/ Voight	Wempner/ Schirripa
Cleaners	J. Kelley/ Grams	Plitzuweit/ Peterson	Ebel/ Koutia
Communion Setup	-	Susie Cornell	-
Ushers	Gary Jeffers John Wempner Aaron Gullerud	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson	Cody Hall Levi Foxen Tanner Plitzuweit

## 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. 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 [YouTube channel](#) or [website](#).
3. For those who watch on our [church online platform](#), 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 worshipping 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.

**Update: The Cornerstone kick-off event on February 27 was a success, and we had 11 people attend. We look forward to offering it again after Easter as six one-hour sessions.**

We are worshipping at my home in Vistancia in person and via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. 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

March 8th-12th	Spirit Week
March 8th 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
March 8th 6:30 p.m.	Pastor Foxen Growth Group
March 9th 6:00 p.m.	Church Council
March 10th 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service
March 10th 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service Facebook Live
March 11th 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
March 11th 4:00 p.m.	Catechism Study Hall
March 11th 5:00 p.m.	Catechism
March 11th 6:30 p.m.	BIC Class - Pastor Foxen
March 12th	5th Annual Fun Run
March 12th	End of 3rd Quarter
March 13th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
March 13th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service Facebook Live
March 13th 7:00 p.m.	Music Practice for Holy Week/ Easter
March 14th 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax only)
March 14th 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Online
March 14th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Bible Study

## LOOKING AHEAD

March 15th-19th	Spring Break
March 16th 7:00 p.m.	Church Council
March 17th 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service
March 17th 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service Facebook Live
March 20th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
March 20th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service Facebook Live
March 20th 7:00 p.m.	Music Practice for Holy Week/ Easter
March 21st 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
March 21st 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Online
March 21st 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia)
March 21st 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-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.

**Saturday Worship at 6pm (Jomax)**  
**Sunday Worship at 9am (Jomax) 9:30am (Vistancia)**  
**Bible Study Session 10:30am (Jomax)**