



We have a life
Ephesians 2:1-10

Lent 4
Sunday, March 14, 2021
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
Pastor Ehlers Home
12786 W Burnside Trl
Peoria, AZ 85383-8062
Sun. 9:30am Worship



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

Blessed to be a
member of



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!



Worship FOCUS

The words of our sermon text today, Ephesians 2: 1-10 is overflowing with comfort and joy for the Christian. Because of Christ's death and resurrection God sees us as already in heaven! Could anything be more opposite than being dead in transgressions, our natural state?

The grace is incomparable. By definition it cannot be earned or deserved. Look to the cross and then live in the works which God has prescribed and prepared in the law, works of obedience to him and love to our neighbor. For our problem has been solved. There is nothing else for us to be concerned about than looking to the cross and living as those who are already as good as in heaven. To murmur and complain, to live as though we had yet to find peace or purpose, help or happiness, that is all as silly as it is perverse. Live in the joy that in Christ we already have it all!

Acknowledgements Scripture taken from **THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®**
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Service of Scripture and Song

GATHERING RITE ON THE WORD OF GOD

(*Speak O Lord | CWS735*)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Oh, how I love your law!

C: I meditate on it all day long.

M: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies.

C: for they are ever with me.

M: I have more insight than all my teachers,

C: for I meditate on your statutes.

M: How sweet are your words to my taste.

C: sweeter than honey for my mouth.

Sung by Congregation:

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you To receive the food of your Holy Word.

Take your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fashion us in your likeness

That the light of Christ might be seen today

In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us All your purposes for your glory.

M: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,

C: So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

M: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

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.

Sung by Congregation:

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.

Test our thoughts and our attitudes In the radiance of your purity,

Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see, Your majestic love and authority.

Words of pow'r that can never fail, Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

M: God gave his Word so “That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, that by believing you may have life in his name. The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. 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.

Sung by Congregation:

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand in your promises.
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak O Lord, as your Church is built and you fill the earth with your glory.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way;⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.⁸ The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

PSALM 32

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,

C: Whose sins are covered.

M: When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;

C: My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

M: Then I acknowledged my sin to you

C: And did not cover up my iniquity.

M: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”

C: And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

M: You are my hiding place;

C: You will protect me from trouble.

M: Many are the woes of the wicked,

C: But the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:14-21

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

SERMON HYMN

God Loved the World So that He Gave | CW391—Melody CWS748 5 Vs.

God loved the world so that he gave His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ is the solid rock of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death.
All who confide in him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die-- His Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word does teach How we the blessed goal may reach.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives the sins that you have done.
You're justified by Jesus' blood; Baptized, you are a child of God.

When you are sick, when death draws near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death-- This is the anchor of my faith!

Made alive by God in Christ...Made God's workmanship to do his works

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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

SONG OF THE SEASON

He will Hold Me Fast | 3 Vs.
Ensemble sings Vs. 1 and Congregation joins for Vs. 2 & 3

*When I fear my faith will fail Christ will hold me fast,
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast;*

*I could never keep my hold Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.*

Refrain:

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. *[Refrain]*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, When he comes at last! *[Refrain 2x]*

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *and* LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING AND RESPONSE

(Response Sung by Congregation)

M: We praise you, O God of heaven and earth, that you have so richly lavished us with your free love and unearned salvation, in Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord:

Sung by Congregation:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery | 4 Vs.
Ensemble sings Vs. 2 & 3

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness Now the Light of Life has come
Look to Christ, Who condescended Took on flesh to ransom us.

*Come behold the wondrous myst'ry He the perfect Son of Man
In his living, in His suff'ring Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment Of the law; in him we stand.*

*Come behold the wondrous myst'ry Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory Grace unmeasured, love untold.*

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain him Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected As we will be when he comes.**

Funeral Arrangements for Merl Meitner

Merl Meitner, who served Cross of Glory Lutheran School as a one-year emergency teacher (after his retirement from the teaching ministry), unexpectedly died on Friday, March 5. A service of Christian funeral will be held on June 26, 2021, in Chetek, WI, officiated by Pastor Jeff Seelow of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rice Lake, WI. All memorials are to be directed to West Lutheran High School, 3350 Harbor Ln N, Plymouth, MN 55447. All sympathy cards can be mailed to Cinda at 3020 East Main, Mesa, AZ 85213.

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.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	March 21st	March 28th	April 4th
Counters	Wempner/ Voight	Wempner/ Schirripa	Wempner/ Cornell
Cleaners	Plitzuweit/ Peterson	Ebel/ Koutia	Patterson/ Pappenfuss
Communion Setup	Susie Cornell	-	Sharon Kull
Ushers	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson	Cody Hall Levi Foxen Tanner Plitzuweit	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger

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. 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 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.

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 worshiping 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

Our New Principal and Teacher Are Moved In!

The Aguilars moved their belongings into their new house last Saturday. Since we had so many helpers, we got the job done in under an hour! Amazing! Thanks to everybody who chipped in to help!

The Aguilars returned to California on Sunday (they still have a school year to finish over there). We'll be looking forward to their final arrival this summer!

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

March 15th-19th	Spring Break
March 16th 7:00 p.m.	Music Practice for Holy Week/ Easter
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 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

LOOKING AHEAD

March 22nd 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
March 22nd 6:30 p.m.	Growth Group– Pastor Foxen
March 24th 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service
March 24th 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service Facebook Live
March 25th	No School Preschool– Optional Parent/ Teacher Conferences
March 25th 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
March 25th 4:00 p.m.	Catechism Study Hall
March 25th 5:00 p.m.	Catechism
March 25th 7:00 p.m.	Board of Ed
March 27th-28th	Palm Sunday Services-PreK-8 Sing
March 27th 6:00 p.m.	Palm Sunday Worship Service (Jomax)
March 27th 6:00 p.m.	Palm Sunday Worship Service Facebook Live
March 27th 7:00 p.m.	Music Practice for Holy Week/ Easter
March 28th 9:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship Service (Jomax)
March 28th 9:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship Service Online
March 28th 9:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship Service (Vistancia)
March 28th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Bible Study

Help Promote Our Cornerstone Program

We need YOU to help us get the message out about our resiliency training happening at Cross of Glory. First, choose a favorite Bible passage that you go to in times of trouble. Next, using the selfie side of your phone, record yourself saying this:

"When times are tough and life gets me down, I remember these words . . . (read or recite your Bible passage)."

Please send your video to becky.foxen@gmail.com using Dropbox, or share it with becky.foxen@gmail.com using Google Photos. If you want to participate but don't have the confidence to film yourself, call Becky to set up an appointment at 623-340-8354. We will post the videos on the Vistancia Facebook page, and we will share a link to the registration for the resiliency training event there, too.

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, who underwent successful knee replacement revision on February 23 and is now at home recovering.

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)*