



Stick with the Truth

1 John 1:5-2:2

Easter 3

Sunday, April 18, 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
Lake Pleasant Elementary School
31501 N. Westland Road
Peoria, AZ 85383
Sun. 9:30am Worship

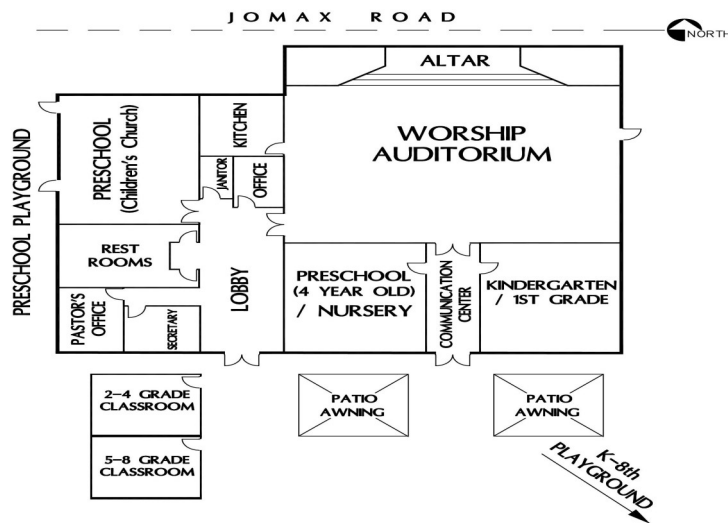
Welcome to our Worship Center! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Families with children:

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult guardian.
- We invite children (**ages 3 to 4th grade**) to take part in our “**Children in Church**” program. Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. At the indicated time, children can hear a special children's message at the feet of the pastor. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

Special needs:

- Large print bulletin available from usher.
- Seats with armrests available.



Worship focus

A summer storm causes the electricity to go out and your task is to find a flashlight that works, but that simple task is made difficult in the total darkness. Similarly, when we don't have the light of God's Word, we can't do anything. The Word brings the light. In darkness there can be no fellowship. You can't walk hand in hand, work with or support, lovingly serve what is lost in the dark. But the Word brings God to light. It shows and brings Jesus, the Advocate who pleads our case so effectively to light. It brings the truth to light that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Sin removed is darkness removed. The light of the Word removes the sin by revealing Jesus which brings forth trust in him and in his merit.

Acknowledgements Scripture taken from **THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®** Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Worship and Hymns sourced from Christian Worship (CW) © 1993 and/or Christian Worship Supplement (CWS) © 2008 by Northwestern Publishing House (NPH). All rights reserved. These and all other sources are used by permission under One License.net License # A-711716 and/or CCLI License # 1852086 and # CSPL136078 (Video).

Service of Celebration and Reverence

OPENING HYMN

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia | CWS719 4 Vs.

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain:

Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sins forgiving, Alleluia! Jesus is living, Alleluia!

For three long days the grave did its worst until its strength by God was dispersed
He who gives life did death undergo;
and in its conquest His might did show. *[Refrain]*

The angel said to them, "Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare;
only the grave cloths are lying there. *[Refrain]*

"Go spread the news: He's not in the grave He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done even the battle with sin is won. *[Refrain]*

WE APPROACH GOD

(Spoken Responsively; Sung songs of response—"Triune God" and "Melodic Gloria)

M: O Creator, to you darkness is light, and a thousand years is as a day. Before we speak, you know our thoughts.

C: There is no place we can flee from your sight.

M: O most holy Lord, our relationship with you requires a personal integrity we do not have. We are cut to the heart to realize that you judge every thought, word and action.

C: We have been arrogant to challenge your laws. We have been foolish to excuse our lust for more as a basic human need. We have blamed our unhappiness on others. Our self-centeredness is the worst affliction on earth and we no longer deny it.

M: O God of wisdom, we have wandered from your ways. We do not deserve leniency. The only thing we possess is our guilt.

C: O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we can speak your name only because you are the God of grace. Jesus came to be the sacrificial Lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. Because you have gathered all the lost, we plead: "Be our Shepherd."

(Sung by Congregation)

Triune God your love has found me; you have brought me to this place.
And you promised you will lead me, safely home by your good grace.

Jesus sought me, a lost wanderer, cut off from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger, Bought me with his precious blood.
To your grace now I'm a debtor; daily I'm in need of you!
Let your mercy like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to you.
Prone to wander, such a sheep I am; prone to leave your shepherd's love.
So I pray: "Please make me your lamb; heal me for the life above!"

M: The Triune God knows our needs. He remembers that we are dust. He gloried in doing for us what we do not deserve. Before we existed, the Father sent his one and only Son to trade places with a world of sinners. In the fullness of time, Jesus packaged his honor in humility and was born into our world. By His flawless life and innocent death, he ransomed the world from sin, Satan and damnation. The Holy Spirit raised him back to life to guarantee that we who trust these truths are God's children and heirs of heaven.
Amen.

(Sung by Congregation)

Glory to the God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God, the Father.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

CATECHISM REVIEW Confession

(Spoken Responsively)

M: First: What is Confession?

C: Confession has two parts. The one is that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor as from God himself, not doubting but firmly believing that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven.

M: Second: What sins should we confess?

C: Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

M: Third: How can we recognize these sins?

C: Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, employer or employee? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you hurt anyone by word or deed? Have you been dishonest, careless, wasteful, or done other wrong?

M: Fourth: How will the pastor assure a penitent sinner of forgiveness?

C: He will say, "By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 3:11-20

While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. ¹⁷ "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

PSALM 150

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Praise God in his sanctuary;

C: Praise him in his mighty heavens.

M: Praise him for his acts of power;

C: Praise him for his surpassing greatness.

M: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

C: Praise him with the harp and lyre,

M: Praise him with tambourine and dancing,

C: Praise him with the strings and flute,

M: Praise him with the clash of cymbals,

C: Praise him with resounding cymbals.

M: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD

C: Praise the LORD.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Our hearts were burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us. Alleluia. (*Luke 24:32*)

(Sung by the Congregation)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:36-49

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate it in their presence. ⁴⁴He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."



SERMON HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (*CWS771*) 3 Vs.

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world; The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path

And show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]

I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

We shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. **2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

APOSTLES' CREED

(Spoken in Unison)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SONG OF THE SEASON

Before the Throne of God Above | 3 Vs.
Ensemble sings Vs. 1 ; Congregation joins for Vs. 2 & 3

*Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea,
 a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
 My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;
 I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,
 No tongue can bid me thence depart.*

**When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
 upward I look and see him there who made an end of all my sin.
 Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
 for God the Just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
 To look on him and pardon me.**

**Behold him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness;
 the great unchangeable "I AM," the King of glory and of grace!**

One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

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.

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.

ENSEMBLE

Walk by Faith

Voters Meeting

There will be a voters meeting on April 25. The time will be 11:30 so that members from Vistancia are able to make it.

Changes to Note for Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, May 2, our confirmands will be confirmed during the worship service. The examination of the confirmands will take place on Saturday night, May 1. Please note that there will be no regular worship service or Facebook Live service on Saturday night. This means we are not recording the regular service to have it on our website at 9:00 a.m. or on YouTube. The Sunday online Confirmation service will be available after 1:00 p.m. on that day. We will be sharing both the examination and Confirmation Service live on Cross of Glory Vistancia Facebook Page.

Communion Setup and Alter Guild Leader

We need volunteers to help on the Communion set-up rotation and an Altar Guild leader to spearhead the changing of paraments. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lynn Wempner.

Call News Update

Pastor Ehlers received a call to serve two congregations in Michigan, St. John in Clare and Faith in Harrison. After several weeks of deliberation, he has been lead by the Holy Spirit to continue serving Cross of Glory Vistancia. Please keep him and his service to Cross of Glory in your thoughts and prayers.

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	April 25th	May 2nd	May 9th
Counters	Wempner/ Schirripa	Wempner/ Brooks	Wempner/ Voight
Cleaners	Plitzuweit/ Peterson	Ebel/ Koutia	Patterson/ Pappenfuss
Communion Setup	-	Shannon Gullerud	-
Ushers	Verl Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers John Wempner Aaron Gullerud

Vacation Bible School

This year VBS is July 26th-30th. If you are able to help please sign up in link from weekly news or let Liz or Pastor Foxen know. If you are wanting to register your child the link is available in the weekly news.



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.

Sunday School



Sunday School Today at
10:30!

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

April 19th 6:30 p.m.	Grams Growth Group
April 22nd 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
April 22nd 4:00 p.m.	Catechism Study Hall
April 22nd 5:00 p.m.	Catechism
April 22nd 7:00 p.m.	Board of Ed
April 24th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
April 24th 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live)
April 25th 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
April 25th 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Online)
April 25th 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service Vistancia
April 25th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
April 25th 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
April 25th 11:30 a.m.	Voters Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

April 26th 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
April 26th 6:30 p.m.	Grams Growth Group
April 29th 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
April 29th 4:00 p.m.	Catechism Study Hall
April 29th 5:00 p.m.	Catechism
April 29th 6:30 p.m.	BIC Class-- Pastor Foxen
May 2nd 9:00 a.m.	Confirmation Worship Service w/Communion
May 2nd 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Facebook Live
May 2nd 1:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)

Finance Manager Position

We are receiving applications for a finance manager. The deadline for applications has been extended. If you're interested in the position, you can get a full description from the office. Applications can be picked up at the 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.

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.

Dave Sauer, Praises for the successful hip surgery after biking fall, prayers for continued healing.

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.

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.

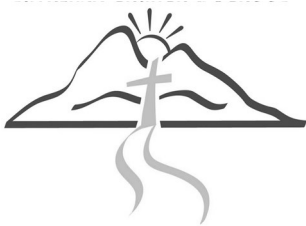
Major JD Larson, son of John & Chi Larson, based at Kirkland AFB in New Mexico.

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.

The Family of 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 1416 Second St., Chetek, WI 54728. .



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.