



Test Before You Trust
Test the message... Test the teachers

Easter 4
Sunday, April 25, 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/New River Campus
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.



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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

One lesson we have learned from the age of the internet and communication overload, we cannot believe everything we hear. We have become skilled in fact checkers, verifying the details with multiple trusted resources and analyzing the possible skewed motivation of the information source. In the end, it's not easy in our world to get to the truth, because there is no definitive source of truth.

Fortunately, when it comes to Christian doctrine, we have a definitive source of truth—the Bible. We are able to test teachers and their message against what the Bible tells us and know if the message is true. Anything that does not match should be discarded as false.

There are many in this world that intend to lead us astray from our source of truth in the Bible. As the last verse of the sermon hymn reminds us, “*I walk with Jesus all the way; His guidance never fails me*”. Walk with Jesus and his Word— He is the one true source of Truth.

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 the Word

OPENING HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | CW375 6 Vs.

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My Savior gently leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feeds me.

Confused and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still, Your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight, A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight; My cup is overflowing!

And so through all the length of days Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise Within your house forever!

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: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 20:28-32

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.³² "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

PSALM 23

(Sung Responsively)



**The Lord is my shep-herd; there is
noth - ing I shall want.**

Refrain

M: The Lord is my shep-herd,

C: I shall not be in want.

M: He makes me to lie down in green pas-tures.

C: He leads me beside quiet wa-ters,

M: He re-stores my soul.

C: He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

M: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no e-vil,

C: For you are with me; Your rod and staff, they com-fort me.

Refrain

M: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my en-emies,

C: You anoint my head with oil; my cup o-verflows.

M: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for-e-ver.

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

GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”



SERMON HYMN

I Walk in Danger All the Way | CW431 4 Vs.

**I walk in danger all the way; The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey, Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares May seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray; I walk in danger all the way.**

**I pass through trials all the way, With sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day The cross of God's own sending.
Oft in adversity I know not where to flee
When storms of woe my soul dismay; I pass through trials all the way.**

**Grim death pursues me all the way; Nowhere I rest securely.
He comes by night, he comes by day, And takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath, and I In death's strong grasp may lie
To face eternity today. Grim death pursues me all the way.**

I walk with Jesus all the way; His guidance never fails me.
He takes my ev'ry fear away When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by his footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may, I walk with Jesus all the way.

SERMON

Test Before You Trust

1 John 4:1-6

Test the message... Test the teachers

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the anti-christ, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

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.

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

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, we have heard the sweet sound of your familiar and loving voice in the gospel and have feasted in the green pastures of your Holy Word. Bless your Word in our lives.

C: Use its message to nourish and sustain us as we journey through this life to the next. What joy it is to know that you laid down your life for the sheep—even sheep like us.

M: Gracious Shepherd, we are truly confused and foolish without you. Forgive us for the times we wander from you and stray from the call of your voice. Restore us to your fold, and protect us from the evil one. When Satan comes in the sheep's clothing of false teaching, expose his lies and guide us in your truth.

C: When temporary pleasure beckons us to follow the wide road to hell, use your rod and staff to curb our sinful nature and lead us in paths of righteousness.

M: Guiding Shepherd, bless your Church with faithful under-shepherds—pastors who proclaim your death and resurrection as they minister to the souls in their care.

C: Give all ministers of the gospel an unwavering devotion to your Word.

M: Tender Shepherd, look with special care on all who suffer from loneliness, disease, accident, or loss. Lift them into your comforting arms, and embrace them with the warmth of your love.

C: Carry them through life's troubling times. Renew hope and joy in their lives.

M: Loving Shepherd, we pray also for your "other sheep." Let your voice be heard in all the world. Prosper the work of our missionaries at home and aboard.

C: Give us all the zeal and courage to share with our friends and neighbors the good news of sins forgiven. Use our witness to gather the elect into one fold under your care.

Special Prayers and intercession may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

~Silent prayer.~

M: Eternal Shepherd, when our days on earth come to an end and we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, lead us safely to our eternal home.

C: There we will enjoy your goodness and mercy forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken by All)

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

Jesus Shepherd of the Sheep | CW436 4 Vs.

Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep, Who your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep, Guarded still by you.

In your promise firm we stand; None can take us from your hand.
Speak -- we hear -- at your command, We will follow you.

By your blood our souls were bought; By your life salvation wrought;
By your light our feet are taught, Lord, to follow you.

Father, draw us to your Son; We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done, There to live with you.

Voters Meeting

There will be a voters meeting today. The time will be 11:30 so that members from Vistancia are able to make it. All members are encouraged to attend. The big topic for discussion is our budget for next year for church and school, as well as updates on the building project.

View documents in the weekly news or the packet at the back of church.

The meeting will be available to join via Zoom as well. The link for that is below.

Topic: Quarterly Voters' Meeting

Time: Apr 25, 2021 11:30 AM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78118587317?pwd=aTg5SExyL29PdINxWGJFazBKVDJKUT09>

Meeting ID: 781 1858 7317

Passcode: Az7hRP

Meditations & Used Meditations

New *Meditations* are in your box if you ordered them, or you can find a copy in the entry on the bookshelf.

When you pick up your next quarter's *Meditations*, drop off your used copy from the last quarter. There is a box next to the new *Meditations*. The WELS Prison Ministry appreciates this donation and distributes *Meditations* to prisoners who are always anxious to receive them. Thank you.

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.

LWMS Spring Rally at Cross of Glory

The LWMS Grand Canyon West Circuit Spring Rally was held at Cross of Glory this past Saturday. We had about 40 people in attendance, and 10 or so were from Cross of Glory.

The guest speaker for the rally was Pastor Jonathan Leach, who serves as the chairman of the East Asia Administrative Committee. Administrative committees oversee the various mission fields of our synod. The committee members visit the mission fields to help them in their work. Pastor Leach gave a riveting presentation on the work being done in that part of the world, outlining the challenges as well as the tremendous blessings. The Lord is advancing his gospel throughout the world! If you'd like to hear some details on the work, ask Pastor Foxen or one of the Cross of Glory women who attended.

Talent Show

Thanks to all the performers for making a bright spot for us all! Special thanks to the Akaos and Gulleruds for their equipment and to our dear Cross of Glory pastors and Mrs. Severeid for bringing the fun between acts! Thanks also goes to Thrivent Financial for the action team to purchase concessions and to the Woodworths for the food truck! All praise and glory to God for his gift of fun times with friends!

Fellowship and Refreshments

We are thrilled that we will resume refreshments and fellowship following the service on Sunday, May 30. If you are interested in getting on the schedule to provide refreshments and clean up afterward, please contact Clara Naber at cnaber42@gmail.com.

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.

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	May 2nd	May 9th	May 16th
Counters	Wempner/ Schirripa	Wempner/ Voight	Wempner/ Brooks
Cleaners	Ebel/ Koutia	Patterson/ Pappenfuss	Martins/ Ehlers
Communion Setup	Shannon Gullerud	-	Sharon Kull
Ushers	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers John Wempner Aaron Gullerud	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

April 26, 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
April 28, 6:30 p.m.	Grams Growth Group
April 29, 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
April 29, 4:00 p.m.	Catechism Study Hall
April 29, 5:00 p.m.	Catechism
April 29, 6:30 p.m.	BIC Class – Pastor Foxen
May 1, 6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Examination (Jomax)
May 1, 6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Examination (Facebook Live)
May 2, 9:00 a.m.	Confirmation Worship Service w/Communion
May 2, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live)
May 2, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia at New River)
May 2, 1:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 4, 6:00 p.m.	Evangelism Meeting
May 4, 7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
May 5, 6:30 p.m.	Grams Growth Group
May 6, 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
May 8, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
May 8, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live)
May 9, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
May 9, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Online)
May 9, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia at New River)
May 9, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
May 9, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School

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 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.

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.

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.

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 See-
low 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. .

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)