



See
how God's
garden grows

Mark 4:26-34

Pentecost 5
Sunday, June 27 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
Sun. 9am & Mon. 7pm 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.

Welcome to Cross of Glory! 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.

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

Have you ever opened a package of seeds and looked at them? How could a tomato, green bean or a cucumber grow from this tiny piece of biological material? When the gardener scatters the seeds on the dirt, and the small, insignificant seeds are tilled, it seems like a futile activity. And yet, hidden within the seed is life. It sprouts. It grows. But not always. And similarly in our sermon text today, seeds of faith are planted by God in his garden. The question begs to be asked: Where are you in God's garden? Has the seed taken root? Has it triumphed over obstacles and sprouted? Is it still very young and tender? Is it finally useful in service? Every time you see a plant growing, be reminded of questions like these.

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Service of Worship and Praise



OPENING HYMN

Spread, Oh Spread the Mighty Word | CW576 V.s. 1-6

Spread, oh, spread the mighty Word; Spread the kingdom of the Lord
Ev'rywhere his breath has giv'n Life to beings meant for heav'n.

Tell them how the Father's will Made the world and keeps it still,
How his only Son he gave All from sin and death to save.

Tell of our Redeemer's love, Who forever does remove
By his holy sacrifice All the guilt that on us lies.

Tell them of the Spirit giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true, Working both to will and do.

Up! The rip'ning fields you see. Mighty shall the harvest be,
But the reapers still are few; Great the work they have to do.

Lord of harvest, grant anew, Joy and strength to work for you,
Till the gath'ring nations all See your light and heed your call.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

(Read/Sung Responsively)

M: We gather for worship the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: As believers in Christ we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James we are told, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for one another so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

C: Lord, I pray to you because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from you and others by the sin in my life. I need your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me; and by the power of your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. Amen.

Congregation Sings:

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

You are the Potter. I am the clay; Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

You are the Potter. I am the clay; Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

M: We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, “He sent me to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin, to restore sight to the blind, to bring mercy to lives shattered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord.” God gave his only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord. We live in his power, energized to tell of his peace.

C: Amen.

Congregation Sings:

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way;
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave;
From the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.
Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way;
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave;
From the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.**

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 17:22-24

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. ²⁴ All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. “I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.”

PSALM 1

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked

C: Or stand in the way of sinners.

M: But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

C: And on his law he meditates day and night.

M: He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season

C: And whose leaf does not wither, whatever he does prospers.

M: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

C: Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

M: For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

C: But the way of the wicked will perish.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 1:3-8

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

SERMON HYMN

Good News of God Above | *CW568 4 V.s.*

Good news of God above Is ours to tell abroad,
The Father's everlasting love In Christ the risen Lord.
For neighbors near and far The seed of life is sown;
Then spread the seed By word and deed To make the Savior known.

The love of Christ proclaim Who left his home on high;
To live our human life he came, Our human death to die.
The Father's only Son Became the sinners' friend,
Our lot to share, Our sin to bear, And death's dominion end.

The Lord of Glory lives! From cross and death and grave
His own abundant life he gives To those he died to save.
His righteousness and peace Declare from sea to sea;
His praises sound The world around For Christ has made us free.

Hear now the Master's word To those who bear his name:
"So send I you; till all have heard, Make known, declare, proclaim!"
Go forth in all the earth; Embrace the path he trod
With Christ beside As friend and guide To bring good news of God.

SERMON

See How God's Garden Grows

Mark 4:26-34

Gradually... Inconspicuously ...Impressively

²⁶He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has

come.”³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³²Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.” ³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

THE 1st Article OF THE APOSTLE’S CREED

(Read Responsively)

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

What does this mean?

C: I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

M: And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life.

C: God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

SONG OF THE SEASON

All Praise to Him | 3 V/s.

All praise to Him, the God of light, Who formed the mountains by His might.

All praise to Him Who names the stars That sing His fame in skies afar.

All praise to Him Who reigns in love, Who guides the galaxies above,
Yet bends to hear our every prayer With sovereign pow’r and tender care.

All praise to Him whose love is seen In Christ the Son, the Servant King,
Who left behind His glorious throne To pay the ransom for His own.

All praise to Him Who humbly came To bear our sorrow, sin, and shame,
Who lived to die, Who died to rise, The all-sufficient sacrifice.

All praise to Him whose pow’r imparts The love of God within our hearts,
The Spirit of all truth and peace The fount of joy and holiness
To Father, Son, and Spirit now Our souls we lift, our wills we bow,
To You, the triune God, we raise With hearts of love our song of praise!

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

(Sung by Congregation)

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

(Spoken by Minister)

M: 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 Almighty God, Your Word is Cast | CW324—Melody: CW 493 4 Vs.

Almighty God, your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.

Whene'er the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow'r may know.

Special Voters Meeting

There will be a special voters' meeting this Sunday, June 27, at 11:00 a.m. At this meeting, the voters will be selecting a contractor for the upcoming building project and approving the terms of the Church Extension Fund (CEF) loan, which was approved by the CEF committee last week. You can join the meeting in person or by [Zoom](#).

Zoom:

Meeting ID: 472 559 7458

Passcode: JnDW9s

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 you 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.

Internet Worship

There are several options for you to worship online. You may go to crossofglory.online.church to view the Jomax Sunday worship service at 2:00 p.m. each Sunday. It can also be watched anytime after that on our Cross of Glory Facebook Site or YouTube channel. In addition, the Vistancia mission provides a live service at 9:30 each Sunday via its Vistancia Facebook Site.

Family Altar Devotional Group

The Cross of Glory Family Altar Facebook Group has been created, and many people have been invited to the group. It's a place for encouraging others in their home spiritual lives and a place for sharing ideas about how to share Christ at home. We're now SOAPing through Scripture as a way to encourage personal time in your Bible. SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Pastor Ehlers is writing his thoughts on these things each day, and we encourage everyone else to add their own thoughts and join the discussion! So far, we've covered the books of Galatians, Proverbs, Romans, Exodus, 1 Corinthians, some of the Psalms, and more. The link to the page is below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cogfamilyaltar/>

Vistancia Events

Below outreach events geared to getting to know people in the new Mystic neighborhood in Vistancia. Pastor Ehlers is looking for two people to help out at each event. Please let Pastor Ehlers or Liz know if you are able to help.

Super Soaker with City of Peoria– Thursday, July 15, 11:00-1:00 (Mountian Vista Club Pool)
 National Hot Dog Day– Thursday, July 15, 4;00-6:00 (Vistancia Event in Mystic)

Growth Group

New River Growth Group

Chosen (Not Meeting in July)
 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Location: New River Kiwanis Park, New River
 Contact Pastor John Ehlers

Vistancia News

Our first Month in New River went well. We had visitors that want to continue worship with us. We are going to continue worship at the Kiwanis park for the time being as we won't have a place to worship in Vistancia until August. If you are interested in joining us, the address is 48606 N 17th Ave, New River, Az. When using navigation, Google maps is the best choice, Apple may get you lost. Our service time is 9:30 a.m.

Please let Pastor Ehlers or Liz know when you are able to volunteer in the areas of setting up worship, greeting/ushering, piano playing, Midi/PowerPoint/sound system, and refreshments.

Communion will be at 9:00 a.m. on Communion Sundays in New River.

Vistancia Worship Volunteers	July 4th	July 11th	July 18th
Setup	Taylor	Taylor/ Freeman	Freeman
Usher/ Greeter	-	-	
Piano Player	-	-	
Midi/Powerpoint/ Sound System Operator	-	-	
Refreshments	-	Freeman	

Construction Zone

On Monday, June 7, construction began in the west parking lot to connect Cross of Glory (Jomax) to city water. The workers hit caliche sooner than they expected. They have brought in some jackhammers to break it apart. Expect it to be noisy here during the week. **Please park in the east parking lot while construction is going on.**

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

July 4, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
July 4, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia at New River)
July 4, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
July 4, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax Online)
July 5, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)

LOOKING AHEAD

July 11, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
July 11, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia at New River)
July 11, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
July 11, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax Online)
July 12, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)

Vacation Days

June 21st	Secretary (Liz Simkauskas)
June 11th– July 2nd	Pastor Foxen
July 2nd	Secretary (Liz Simkauskas)
July 2nd– July 23rd	Pastor Ehlers
July 16th– July 21st	Principal Aguilar

Jomax Worship Volunteers	July 4th	July 11th	July 18th
Counters	Wempner/ Moline	Wempner/ Plitzuweit	Wempner/ Cornell
Cleaners	Kelley/ Grams	Plitzuweit/ Peterson/ Aguilar	Ebel/ Koutia
Communion Setup	Shannon Gullerud	-	Liz Simkauskas
Ushers	Cody Hall Lexi Foxen Tanner Plitzuweit	John Kull Kim Moline	Jon Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson
Sunday Refreshments	Sharon Wilson/ Shannon Gullerud	Jon Naber	Rachel Plitzuweit Leslie Contreras

Call Meeting Results

The congregation met on June 6 to issue two part-time, one-year calls. Kim Pappenfuss was called to teach departmentalized language arts and art in grades 5-8. She will be providing a good amount of the release time for our new principal. The second call was issued to Becky Foxen to teach music in grades 1-8. These calls were issued in agreement with the budget that the voters passed at their meeting last April.

Please keep these two women in your prayers as they consider the calls they have received!

Important Worship News For Jomax

First, regarding communion, the elders have decided to continue for now with a dismissal prior to celebrating the sacrament. This is being done on a trial basis, and the elders will re-evaluate in their July meeting.

Second, it has been decided that we will be moving our Saturday night service to Monday night. This change will take hold the weekend of June 20 so that there is time to communicate the change a number of times. **This means the last Saturday evening service will take place this Saturday, June 12th, at 6:00 pm. There will not be a Saturday service on June 19th. The first Monday service will take place on June 21st at 7:00 pm.**

The main reason for this change is to make a worship service available to those who are gone for the weekend. As with all changes, we will monitor how things go with this and re-evaluate if need be.

Vacation Bible School

This year vacation Bible school is July 26-30. We've got over 170 registered! We have taken down the public registration link. If you would still like to register, please contact our office, and we'll see if we can find a spot for you.

Good Shepherd Bible Camp(GSBC) Registration

Good Shepherd Bible Camp is returning this summer! Join us in celebrating our 50th Anniversary this July 11 -17!

Register TODAY on our website <https://goodshepherdbiblecamp.com>

GSBC is open to all students entering the 4 grade through the 10 grade next Fall. Staff are welcome from the 11 grade and up.

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.

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.

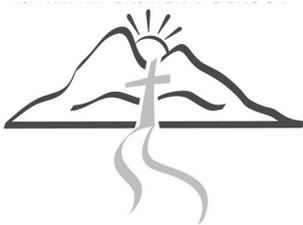
E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

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.