



Jesus
overcomes
unbelief

Mark 9:14-27

Pentecost 16
Sunday, September 12, 2021



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 Meeting in
New River Kiwanis Clubhouse
48606 N.17th Ave.
New River, AZ 85087
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 worshipping 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

In our sermon text today, a man facing a crisis with his son, exclaims to Jesus, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” This statement might seem like a paradox, but it often rings true for us when we face a tough situation. Maybe we are facing a health crisis. We know we have faith. We attend church, we are regularly in God's Word, but suddenly a cloud of doubt envelops us. It is in that moment we remember that God is the source of our faith, and we turn to him in prayer to strengthen our less than perfect faith. May we keep in our hearts the words of the hymn, “*Oh, for a faith that will not shrink though pressed by many a foe...*”

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Service of the Word

OPENING HYMN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies | CHS782- Melody: CW83 3 Vs.

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shade of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by you;
Joyless is the day's return, till your mercy's beams I view,
Till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
More and more yourself display, shining to the perfect day.

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: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 18:21-39

Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing. ²²Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the LORD’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God.” Then all the people said, “What you say is good.” ²⁵Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” ²⁶So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. ²⁷At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” ²⁸So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. ³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ³¹Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” ³²With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.” ³⁴“Do it again,” he said, and they did it again. “Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. ³⁶At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” ³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. ³⁹When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

M: God is our refuge and strength,

C: An ever-present help in trouble.

M: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way

C: And the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

M: Though its waters roar and foam

C: And the mountains quake with their surging.

M: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

C: The holy place where the Most High dwells.

M: God is within her, she will not fall;

C: God will help her at break of day.

M: “Be still, and know that I am God;

C: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

M: The LORD Almighty is with us;

C: The God of Jacob is our fortress.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.



SERMON HYMN

O For A Faith that Will Not Shrink | *CW405 5 Vs.*

Oh, for a faith that will not shrink Though pressed by many a foe,

That will not tremble on the brink Of poverty or woe,

That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the chast'ning rod,

But in the hour of grief or pain Can lean upon its God,

A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without,
That, when in danger, knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt,
That bears unmoved the world's dread frown
Nor heeds its scornful smile,
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown
Nor Satan's arts beguile,
Lord, give us such a faith as this,
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

SERMON

Mark 9:14-27

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. ¹⁶ “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. ¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” ¹⁹ “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” ²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. ²² “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” ²³ “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” ²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

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.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(To give an offering, please scan QR Code)

(Spoken by Minister)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken by Minister)

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus | *CW411 3 Vs.*

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a solace there.





Appreciation and Kick-off Dinner for the Cross of Glory family
(confirmed members and spouses)

Saturday, October 9, at 6:30 p.m.

The time has come to publicly celebrate as a church family. Our God has brought us this far in our goals to expand our facilities and to establish a firm foothold in our mission outreach. What better way to celebrate than to gather as God's grateful people for fellowship while enjoying a catered meal? This is why we are calling it an **"Appreciation Dinner."**

But the time has also come to "FINISH THE RACE." This is the theme of a new campaign based on Hebrews 12:1 and approved by the church council and voters. The goal is to receive the necessary funding to secure the final loan to complete the building project and to purchase land for the Vistancia mission. We started the "race" in 2017 while celebrating the 500th anniversary of Luther's 95 Theses. At that time over \$500,000 was committed and donated to support both the building project and Vistancia outreach. The financial goal this time is much less but still greatly needed.

The presentations after the dinner are meant only to update and inform all those present as to the current and future status of the project. This is why we are calling it a **"Kick-off Dinner."**

Please sign up for the dinner when you receive the "Sign-Up Genius" in your email, or sign up on the sheet provided on the table in the back of the church. The deadline for signing up is **Sunday, September 26.** The catered dinner and presentations are for confirmed members and spouses.

However, childcare and a meal will be provided for children not attending the dinner and presentations.

The Stewardship Committee

Golden Agers

You are invited to join the Golden Agers for breakfast at:

Lou's Tivoli Gardens
12555 W Bell Rd
Surprise, AZ 85375

We will meet at 9:30 a.m. on September 14th, the second Tuesday of the month. Please RSVP to Judy Sasse by text or email two days in advance to get a count. Call 602-618-6967 or email sasseja43@aol.com.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again for our monthly fellowship get-together.

Pastor Foxen Has Returned a Call

This past Sunday, Pastor Foxen announced his decision to return the call Grace in Oshkosh had extended to him. He and his family are excited to remain in Peoria and continue the work God has put before us here. Please keep Grace in your prayers as they continue to look for another pastor to fill that position.

Teen Group Outing

Sunday, September 12th 4:00 p.m. the teen group is having an outing at Lumberjaxes, 6751 N Sunset Blvd E207, Glendale, AZ 85305. Please RSVP by Thursday at 8:00 p.m. The cost for this event is \$15.00 ea.

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 September. 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.

New River Growth Group

Chosen

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Location: New River Kiwanis Park, New River

Contact Pastor John Ehlers

Vistancia Worship Volunteers	September 19th	September 26th	October 3rd
Setup	Taylor	Taylor	
Usher/ Greeter	-	-	
Piano Player/Music	-	-	
Midi/Powerpoint/ Sound System Operator	-		
Refreshments	-	-	

Sunday School Starts This Sunday!

Parents, take note! Bring your children to be fed on the words and works of Jesus. Sunday School begins at 10:30 after church. Parents are welcome to join adult Bible class at the same time.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

September 12, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
September 12, 4:00 p.m.	Teen Group
September 13, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
September 14, 9:30 a.m.	Golden Agers Breakfast
September 15, 11:45 p.m.	Youth Group
September 15, 7:00p.m.	Choir Practice
September 16, 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
September 17, 6:30 p.m.	Father-Daughter Dance
September 19, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
September 19, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia at New River)
September 19, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
September 19, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
September 19, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
September 20, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)

LOOKING AHEAD

September 23, 7:00 p.m.	BIC Class with Pastor Foxen
September 26, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
September 26, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia at New River)
September 26, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
September 26, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
September 26, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
September 27, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)

Jomax Worship Volunteers	September 19th	September 26th	October 3rd
Counters	Wempner/ Moline	Wempner/ Plitzuweit	Wempner/ Cornell
Cleaners	Foxens	Coates/ Simkauskas	Martins/ Ehlers
Communion Setup	Lynn Wempner	-	Liz Simkauskas
Ushers	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson Joel Ditter	Cody Hall Levi Foxen	John Kull Kim Moline
Sunday Refreshments	Ally Kelley Liz Simkauskas	Sharon Wilson Shannon Gullerud	-

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.

Father of Chris Hansen, was Diagnosed with ALS

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.

Offerings

We have now returned to collecting offerings during the service. Offerings can also be made online by visiting crossofglory.org in your browser, clicking on the menu on the upper right corner (3 horizontal lines) and selecting “**Giving**” from the menu. You can also scan the QR code with your phone’s camera. This will take you directly to the offering page. In addition, you may also mail your offerings to Cross of Glory at 10111 W Jomax Rd, Peoria, AZ 85383.



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.