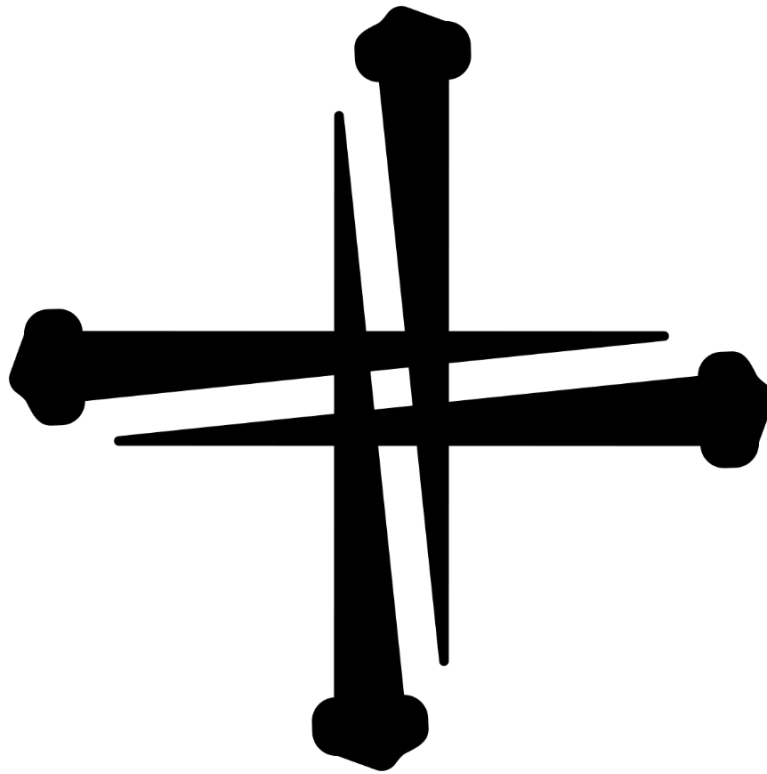


NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

Welcomed into the Family of God

In the morning, Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

Whether it's together at church or in each of our homes, God invites us to come to him and he promises to come and be with us. Coming into God's presence as his child is not something we have earned or deserved. Yet God invites us to come before him with honesty and find acceptance because of his perfect justice and boundless mercy. On behalf us all, I confess:

Lord, we have sinned against you. We acknowledge the sins of our world and our nation. We acknowledge the faults of our families. We acknowledge the shortcomings of our personal lives. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to live as your children. But we know Christ, and we trust in him alone for our forgiveness.

The Bible tells us that in Christ Jesus we are all children of God through faith. Because God sent his Son to face the punishment for our sin and give us his perfection, God has made us fit for his family. He calls us his children and welcomes us home with him. You are forgiven. You are accepted. You are cherished and loved by God; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Prayer

God almighty, without your undying love, we would have been lost in the selfishness of sin. Show us Christ and his sacrificial love. Lead us to love others before ourselves, and to love you with all our hearts; through the saving power of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, amen.

God's Word

Genesis 37:1-11

¹ Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

² This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. ⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

⁵ Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

⁸ His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

⁹ Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

¹⁰ When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

What problems do you see in Jacob's family?

What things caused those problems?

Think of a time someone in your family could have been selfish but served you instead. What impact did that have on you?

God's Word

Romans 8:1-10

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

Think of examples that prove our bodies are subject to death because of sin.

What reassurance do you find in the fact that Christ is in you as a believer?

How can Spirit-filled believers focus on pleasing God during this time in America?

Message from God's Word

Matthew 20:17-28

¹⁷ Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, ¹⁸ "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Greatness through Lowliness

Think of a time you saw someone serving selflessly. What about their lowliness made them great?

Statement of Faith

We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, Father everlasting. To you all angels, all powers of heaven, cherubim and seraphim sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heavenly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you: Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father. When you became man to set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that you will come to be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting! Amen.

Prayer of the Church & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer follows the prayer spoken by the pastor:

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

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. Amen!

Offerings of worship may be given online at cocidaho.org/give. You can also contact the church office (208-375-3992) to schedule a time to bring your offering to church.

Our Mission

Cross of Christ congregation exists to joyously proclaim the gospel of free salvation locally and worldwide. Through God's Word and Sacraments, we strive to win lost souls for Christ and nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

(208) 375-3992 + cocidaho.org

Rev. John Steinbrenner, District President: (208) 921-4748, john.steinbrenner@cocidaho.org
Rev. Matt Zimpelmann, Christian Life Pastor: (208) 861-3623, matt.zimpelmann@cocidaho.org
Rev. Brad Snyder, Christian Education Pastor: (208) 996-0862, brad.snyder@cocidaho.org
Rev. Kurt Wetzel, Mission Pastor: (208) 996-2202, kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org

Boise Campus
11655 W McMillan Rd
Boise, ID 83713

Nampa Midweek Ministry Center
5680 E Franklin Rd, Suite 120
Nampa, ID 83687

Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

March 22, 2020

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool (WELS)
Church & Preschool Office - 208.375.3992 - cocidaho.org

Getting the WORD Out!

If you're reading this, congratulations! It means you've made it this far in accessing the online resources your church is now providing you. *How could you use these resources to share the comfort and hope you have in Jesus with others you know?* SHARE, SHARE, SHARE!

- Forward the emails with the links for sermon/service videos and Bible study options.
- Share the videos and other posts on social media.
- If you have Cross of Christ friends who are on Facebook but haven't liked/followed our pages, encourage them to do so ([crossofchristboise](https://www.facebook.com/crossofchristboise) and [cocnorthnampa](https://www.facebook.com/cocnorthnampa)) to stay even more connected.
- Use the Bible verses and thoughts from the pastors' messages in your conversations with others.

God is putting so many new opportunities in front of us -- let's use them!

Here to Serve

We're respecting social distancing -- and also God's directives to serve and care for each other! If you have a specific need or know someone who does, don't hesitate to email or call the church office (secretary@cocidaho.org / 208-375-3992). We have people ready to help!

Church Office Hours

Yes, someone is here! Monday-Friday, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm, to take phone calls or in-person visits, while respecting social distancing and disinfecting high-touch surfaces the very best we can!

Our Thank-Filled Gifts

One important aspect of our worship (*giving God the credit he deserves*) that can be impacted when we aren't physically together is the opportunity to give thankful, love-filled gifts to our Savior. If you'd like to continue worshiping in this way, you have three options:

1. Give online: cocidaho.org/give, click "Give Now."
2. Drop your gift off at the office (Mon-Fri, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm).
3. If neither of those work well for you, simply hang on to your gifts for now. We trust we will be worshiping together again at some point and you can make your gift in person then!

Easter Flower Orders

Would you like to help adorn our Savior's altar with flowers on Easter morning? We're still going to order them! Contact the church office (secretary@cocidaho.org or 208-375-3992) for information on plants and pricing, and to place an order. **Last day to order is Monday, March 23.** Make checks payable to Dick and/or Kay Guthmiller and put in church mailbox #12 or mail to the church office (11655 W. McMillan Rd, Boise, ID, 83713).

Spring Cleaning Pending

We intend to have a spring cleaning at the Boise campus at some point, but it may or may not be on the originally scheduled date of Saturday, April 11. Stay tuned for updates!

Special Gift for the Seminary Chorus

The financial gifts given in support of the Seminary Chorus will still be sent to them, even though they will not be visiting us. *In fact, our gift is more important now than ever!* The Chorus depends on freewill offerings from the churches they visit not only to cover travel expenses but to provide resources for the choral program each year: purchasing new music, maintaining the campus' instruments, upgrading recording equipment, and producing recordings for many to enjoy. And with their entire tour cancelled, they will find themselves with fewer resources for the coming year. If you still wish to give a gift, submit it by April 1 in the same way as your regular gifts (see Our Thank-Filled Gifts above); simply be sure to designate it "Seminary Chorus."

Holy Week Worship

Our prayer is that we will be able to gather together for these special services!

	<i>Boise</i>	<i>Nampa</i>
Palm Sunday	April 5, 8:30 & 11:00 am	April 5, 9:30 am
<i>with Holy Communion</i>	Monday, April 6, 6:30 pm	
Maundy Thursday	April 9, 6:30 pm	
<i>with Holy Communion</i>		
Good Friday	April 10, 6:30 pm	
Easter Sunday	April 12, 8:30 & 11:00 am	April 12, 9:30 am
	<i>no Easter breakfast</i>	<i>Easter brunch TBA</i>

Soccer Camp 2020: Jesus Saves!

June 15-19, 9:00am-12:00pm, at Boise

Our prayer and intent is that we'll hold Soccer Camp as planned, so don't miss out!

Register online at cocboise.org/soccercamp2020. Deadline is May 21 to receive a soccer jersey, June 7 to receive a t-shirt, or until capacity is reached. Don't delay! Camp fills up fast, so register NOW to reserve your spot. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, both large and small. If you have any questions about Soccer Camp, please speak with Gina Zimpelmann (861-3904) or Deb Arstein (861-2049).

Cross of Christ Preschool: STILL Enrolling for 2020-2021

Preschool may be temporarily paused right now, but we know we'll be back in session at some point! Enrollment info and forms can be found online at cocardaho.org/preschool. **There's a tuition discount of \$100 for those who register before April 1!** Registering sooner rather than later also assures you a spot in your preferred class! Direct questions to Jan Perna (208-949-0851 / janperna@cableone.net).

“I am the Vine, you are the branches...”

	March 22	March 29
Worship Recordings	E. Christianson, R. Christianson	E. Christianson, R. Christianson
Tellers	Turley, Harris	TBA

“...if you remain in me and I in you...”

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 19-20	\$687,043
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$488,858
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$514,447
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$9,715

“you will bear much fruit!”

Adult Bible Study & Teen Bible Class	63 + 11 (N) = 72 15	Adult Bible Class (Cross Connections)	-
Children's Sunday School & Confirmation	41 11	Men's / Women's Bible Study	-/-
Last Week's Worship	122 + 106 + 8 + 23 (N) = 259	Growth Groups	N/A

To place an announcement in *CrossWords/CrossLinks*, please email secretary@cocidaho.org.
Weekly submission deadline is Wednesday at noon. Thanks!