



Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Confession and Absolution

moment of quiet for personal repentance and prayer

Christ loves you and gave himself up for you to make you holy and has presented you to God as holy and blameless. Therefore, trust and be assured that all your sin is forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit. You are forgiven. You are accepted. You are cherished and loved by God. Amen!

God's Word

2 Kings 4:18-37

¹⁸ The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. ¹⁹ He said to his father, "My head! My head!"

His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." ²⁰ After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. ²¹ She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.

²² She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return."

²³ "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath."

"That's all right," she said.

²⁴ She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." ²⁵ So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite! ²⁶ Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'"

"Everything is all right," she said.

²⁷ When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why."

²⁸ "Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes?'"

²⁹ Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don't greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."

³⁰ But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.

³¹ Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened."

³² When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. ³³ He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. ³⁴ Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm. ³⁵ Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

³⁶ Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." ³⁷ She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

When this mother is asked if her child is all right, she says everything is all right. Would you have answered the same way? If you've been in her shoes, have you responded to tragedy the same way she did?

What comfort does this story give to us for times when tragedy strikes?

God's Word

Romans 8:11-19

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

An heir is someone set to inherit all that belongs to someone else. Consider all that we will inherit as heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

Message from God's Word

John 11:17-27, 38-45

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." . . .

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Do you believe this?

What is going on in your life that is making you ask Jesus, "Why? Why did you let this happen to me?"

How does living your life trusting in Jesus lead you to have a different view of those things that are happening to you?

Statement of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayer of the Church & the Lord's Prayer

After the prayer spoken by the pastor, we join to pray the Lord's Prayer:

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!

If you would like to give an offering to support our ministry, you may do so online at cocidaho.org/give. You can also contact the church office (secretary@cocidaho.org or 208-922-8422) to schedule a time to bring your offering to church.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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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

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 Weekly Newsletter

March 29, 2020

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

Getting the WORD Out!

How could you use the online resources from your church 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 and 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!

Plans for the Next Few Weeks

Your church Council will be meeting (virtually) on Monday, March 30, to discuss the latest developments in government regulations for public gatherings and set a direction for the next several weeks. **Watch for further updates regarding Holy Week worship.**

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. Make an appointment to drop your gift off at the church office (email secretary@cocidaho.org or call Kristen Koepsell at 208-922-8422).
3. If neither of those work well for you, simply hang on to your gifts for now. We know we will be worshiping together again at some point and you can make your gift in person then!

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

If next fall isn't exactly on the top of your mind right now, never fear! Preschool enrollment can happen any time you need, since the information and forms are all easily accessible at cocidaho.org/preschool. **And guess what? The tuition discount has been extended! \$100 off if you register by June 1.** Registering sooner rather than later still 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.
If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit!”*

Serving	March 29	April 5
Worship Recordings	E. Christianson, A. Becker	E. Christianson
Tellers	Turley, Walden	TBA

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

Currently, we are not able to give accurate numbers for worship and Bible study attendance.

We are encouraged, though, to see the number of views for our materials online and pray they are a continued blessing while we stay connected to Jesus, even as we cannot all meet in person.