

ONE LIFE. ONE DEATH.

ONE *Victorious*

EMPTY TOMB.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2020



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Opening Prayer of Easter Victory, Confession, and Celebration

The Easter Gospel

John 20:1-10

¹ “Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Easter Meditation

Job 19:23-25

²³ “Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll,
²⁴ that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!
²⁵ I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.”

Our Risen Savior...Is the Bedrock of our Faith

What other things in my life are fighting to take Jesus' place? On what else might I be tempted to rest my security and confidence?

Easter Meditation

Job 19:25-27

²⁵ “I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;
²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes – I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!”

Our Risen Savior...Makes Us Yearn for Our Own Resurrection

When is a time you have yearned for the resurrection, and cherished Easter, on a day that wasn't Easter?

Easter Meditation

Acts 13:26-30

²⁶ “Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷ The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸ Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead.”

Our Risen Savior...Gives Us a Living Hope for Each Day

What are some other disappointing or devastating things that have the power to crush you? How will Easter's power adjust the way you deal with them?

Easter Meditation

Acts 13:30-33a

³⁰ “But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people. ³² We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.”

Our Risen Savior...Confirms that All His Promises Are Dependable

Make a list of promises God has given to us Christians that are anchored in Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Prayer & 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.

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.

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

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

(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

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

April 12, 2020

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

April Worship & Ministry Plans

Based on our government's requirements and medical professionals' advice, our church council has decided to continue suspending all physical ministry meetings through April 25. At this time, our target date to resume public worship together is April 26. All are encouraged to utilize online worship and Christian education resources that are being made available online. Communion has been made available, and will again on Sunday, April 19. Christ is still risen. The forgiveness of your sin is still accomplished. God's promises are still true. We still get to exercise our freedom and our faith as we worship our Savior and spend time in God's Word. God bless you, keep you, and be with you all until we meet again.

Your Pastors Are Available

While we are practicing physical distancing, your pastors are still available to you at any time for counseling or encouragement! Their phone numbers and email addresses are on the previous page of this document.

Christian Family Solutions, the mental health services organization associated with our church body, also offers professional Christian counseling via video appointments, as well as other online resources. Find them online at christianfamilysolutions.org or "WLCFS" on Facebook.

Opportunity for Holy Communion

Before we reconvene in person, you have the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper in a safe, physically distanced way, on Sunday, April 19. Click [HERE](#) for the pastors' message about this opportunity and the link to sign up. *(Please note that the button links at the bottom of the page are inaccurate; use one of the in-text links.)*

Extra Easter Worship Opportunity

Our church body, the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod (WELS), is offering a special online Easter worship opportunity, not to replace our own Cross of Christ online worship, but to supplement and to keep us connected with our brothers and sisters in faith across the country! This special service will go live on Easter Sunday, April 12, at 5:00 pm MST, at this link: [Together at the Empty Tomb](#). (It will also be archived for future viewing.)

Cross of Christ Easter Hashtag

If you post/share anything on social media about your Easter celebrations this weekend, consider using the hashtag #CoCEaster2020. If you're not familiar with hashtags: On social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram, including a word or phrase that starts with a # in your post is like labeling it, and those labels are searchable. When you're logged into your social media account and type any hashtag (e.g., #CoCEaster2020) into the search box, the results will show you every post labeled with that tag. So if you share your "Easter best" photos and tag them, we can all check it out and maybe feel like we're a little bit "together" on Easter!

Prayer Request?

We would treasure the opportunity to include your specific or personal prayers as we come together before our God each week. To submit a prayer request for our online worship or prayer videos, click [HERE](#).

Encouraging Devotions

Several times a week, our pastors are writing brief devotions which are posted on our website (and shared on our social media). Go to cocidaho.org/blog to read and be encouraged!

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](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!

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 off your gift 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 trust 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).

Save the Date: Summer Camp 2020

We hope and intend to hold Summer Camp (aka VBS) this year, so whether your kids want to attend or you'd like to volunteer, pencil in these dates: Monday-Thursday, July 6-9. Details as they become available!

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	April 12	April 19
Worship Recordings	R. Christianson	E. Christianson
Altar Care	T. Yaka	T. Yaka
Tellers	Turley, Walden	Turley, Harris

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 19-20	\$687,043
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$528,494
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$545,543
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$16,859

We are not able to give exact 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.

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