



THE PROOF OF PEACE

April 19, 2020



Opening Prayer

P: O Lord, Heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Forgive our past sins because of your undeserved love and mercy. Take all our offenses – those of thought, of word and deed – and wash them away forever in the blood of Jesus – your Son – our risen Savior.

You promise to cleanse all those who confess their sins to you. Today, Lord, we trust that promise. And so it is with great thanks for the perfect life, the innocent death and the victorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ – that we proudly proclaim as your baptized children – You are our God! We are your people!

Father, your Holy Spirit is our constant Companion and Guide; bless our worship now, by the light of your Word. Enrich our faith with your powerful Truth. Strengthen us in your Word so that our joy and desire to serve you is renewed, today and always.

O, Father, Son and Holy Spirit – receive our praise! Jesus lives! Our victory is won!
Hallelujah!

God's Word

1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Statement of Faith

I believe in the man who lived in such a way, that the world has never seen, nor will ever see his like again. He was God the Son, in a human body, who set aside his divine power, shaking off human limitations when needed, but who always obeyed God's law perfectly.

I believe he was put through the motions of a mock trial, sentenced unjustly, and rushed to his execution in order to remove him.

I believe that this God-man died on a cross, and that his body was laid in a borrowed tomb, which was sealed and guarded out of fear.

I believe on the morning of the third day after his death, when his friends came, intending to honor his lifeless body, that instead they found an empty tomb, because he had risen from the grave.

I believe that he showed himself alive to hundreds of his followers on many occasions, in order to convince them, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that he was alive.

I believe that his death paid the price for my sins, and that his resurrection has opened the doors of eternal life to me and all who believe in him.

I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior; that he is living and ruling forever, and that because of his life, death and resurrection, I, too, shall rise from the grave and live forever with him! Amen!

Message from God's Word

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Proof of Peace

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.

God's Word

Psalm 16:5-11

- ⁵ LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup;
you have made my lot secure.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.
- ⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I have set the LORD always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
- ¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.
- ¹¹ You have made known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

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 19, 2020

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

Worship & Holy Communion Update

Dear Members and Friends of Cross of Christ,

We want to offer you an update on our revised worship plans for the end of April and the beginning of May. In following our governor's earlier guidelines, we targeted Sunday, April 26 to return to worshipping together at Cross of Christ. This past week the governor updated his guidelines, asking that there be no large event gatherings until April 30, when he will provide us with another update.

Respecting the current guidelines, concern for everyone's health, and mindful that we need more than two days of lead-time to publish bulletins, plan music and organize for services at both sites, we will not be publicly worshipping together until sometime *after* Sunday, May 3. Our Church Council will provide further direction (and hopefully an exact return date) after the governor's April 30 press conference.

Rest assured, we are eager to return to worshipping with one another. We pray it won't be long now. Everyone's patience is deeply appreciated. We will continue to provide worship services/resources online with pertinent links. Please watch your email updates.

Additionally, two opportunities are available for you to receive Holy Communion in the near future. Click [HERE](#) for the pastors' message about these opportunities and the link to sign up.

God bless you,
Your Pastors

Pastors and Professional Christian Counselors 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. **Due to the pandemic, telehealth now has increased coverage by health insurance, lower rates, and waived copays.** Find them online at christianfamilysolutions.org or "WLCFS" on Facebook.

Invite a Friend or Two to Worship This Weekend

It's pretty easy... Share the web link to the worship resources and simply say, "Join me for church this weekend!" Think of one or two specific people you'd like to invite and personalize the invitation! Tell them why you think they'd appreciate this particular message, or why staying connected to God's Word has been important to you when you can't go to church in

person. Forward the email directly, copy the link and send it via text, share the social media post on their wall or in a message. They'll love to hear from you!

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!

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. We will provide updates as the date gets closer and new health recommendations come.

Register online at cocidaho.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: 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).

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 soon and you can make your gift in person then!

*“I am the Vine, you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit!”*

Serving	April 19	April 26
Worship Recordings	E. Christianson	E. Christianson
Altar Care	T. Yaka	na
Tellers	Turley, Harris	Rule, Morford, Morgan

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 19-20	\$687,043
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$541,706
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$561,105
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$15,792

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.

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