

ANCIENT HOPE FOR MODERN TIMES



Third Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Greeting

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all, amen.

Psalm 67

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—
² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Confession & Absolution

Children of God, you are in the Lord's presence. He is in all places, and wherever we gather in his name, there he is with us. Let's approach him with honesty—honesty about ourselves, our lives, and our own hearts. You may join me in confessing our sins and clinging to Jesus for forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I acknowledge my brokenness and shame. My sins are many, and they are a terrible offense to you and your will for my life. Left to myself, I would have deserved your punishment forever. Look to Jesus. Have mercy on me. Forgive me today in your unfailing love.

The hope of God's children in ancient times is the certain hope you have today. In time, God kept his promise to send the man who would crush the devil and do away with our sin. Jesus' death and resurrection have removed your guilt forever. As God's child, he calls you holy and dearly loved. Live in peace. Live in freedom. Live with hope. All is forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen!

Prayer

God, by your Son's humiliation, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, give our hearts gladness today and hope of eternal joys to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Jesus waited to show his disciples that he was alive until they saw him in the Scriptures. Even though you can't see him with your eyes right now, what parts of Scripture help you see Jesus for who he really is?

God's Word

Acts 24:10-21

¹⁰ When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: "I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. ¹¹ You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. ¹² My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. ¹³ And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. ¹⁴ However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶ So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

¹⁷ "After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. ¹⁸ I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance. ¹⁹ But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. ²⁰ Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin— ²¹ unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'"

Offer ways in which remembering believers' trials of the past can give you hope for today.

Message from God's Word

1 Peter 1:17-21

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Since You're Only Passing Through, Put Your Hope in God

How does knowing that you are a foreigner on this earth both challenge you and give you hope?

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

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

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 26, 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,

Our revised worship plans for the end of April and the beginning of May remain unchanged at this point. In following our governor's earlier guidelines, we targeted Sunday, April 26 to return to worshipping together at Cross of Christ. Two weeks ago 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, you have the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper on Sunday, May 3. Click [HERE](#) for the pastors' message about this opportunity 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!

Welcome New Member!

Our family of faith praises our gracious God as we welcome our new church family member Cindy Barone into our midst. May God guide us as we grow in our faith and share Jesus with our community together. Welcome, Cindy!



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 pencil in these dates: *Monday-Thursday, July 6-9, 9am - 12pm*, for kids age 3 through entering 6th grade.

- Participant registration will be available within the next week or two.
- Individuals entering 7th grade and older can volunteer at this point by contacting Kristen Koepsell (kristen.koepsell@cocidaho.org or 208-922-8422).

Cross of Christ Preschool: Enrolling for 2020-2021

Need a little something to look forward to? How about a super-duper preschool for your 3, 4, or 5-year-old? Preschool enrollment can happen any time you need, since the information and forms are all easily accessible at cocidaho.org/preschool.

AND... Receive a tuition discount of \$100 if you register by June 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).

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 26	May 3
Worship Recordings	E. Christianson	E. Christianson
Altar Care	n/a	D. McLain
Tellers	Rule, Morford, Morgan	TBD

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 19-20	\$687,043
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$554,919
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$576,506
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$15,488

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!