



OUR LIVING JESUS LIVES IN US

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Confession, God's Forgiveness

P: Lord, we thank you for this gift of your Word that you have promised will accomplish the purposes you have in mind today. Plant it deep in our hearts so that we may live free from the power of Satan and the fear of death. Help us to apply what we hear so that our faiths may be strengthened, our lights shine brightly, and our lives be filled with your blessing.

And Lord, you know our continuing struggle with sin. It's why you sent Jesus for us. We come to you in his name, acknowledging we are no match for our enemy the devil. We sin often and deserve your just and eternal judgment. O God, we *need* what you have promised us: the forgiveness of our sins *and* the power for new life through your Spirit living in us. For Jesus' sake, renew us again today through this good news of your saving love.

Dear friends, the Son of God became the Son of Man to rescue us from Satan's power by sacrificing his life on the cross for our sins. Because of his resurrection you can be certain of this: Your sins are forgiven! You are free from the rule of darkness to walk with your Lord Jesus in the light of his kingdom!

God's Word

Acts 17:16, 21-31

¹⁶ Paul was...greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols... ²¹ The Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas. ²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

As Paul visited Athens, so much of the culture must have really disturbed him. Yet HOW does Paul respond and WHY does he respond that way?

Think of some aspects of your society that trouble you. How might you mirror Paul's godly response?

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.

Message from God's Word

John 14:15-21

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Our Living Jesus Lives in Us

Prayer of Thanks and the Lord's Prayer

P: Lord Jesus, you have graciously filled my cup of faith to overflowing today, so that I *can* trust your promises. And you have made promises with which I can live each day with confidence. In joy now, I will continue my day, forgiven of my sins, assured of your love, and excited to share your promises. Amen.

All: 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

1 John 3:13-18

¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

God's Blessing

Brothers and sisters in Jesus, *go* in the peace of your sins forgiven. *Live* as the one people your God has made you. *Carry out* the Lord's mission with joy and faithfulness.

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 his 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

May 17, 2020

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

A Return to Worship: Next Week (May 23-24)

Hello, dear Christian family,

King David was forced to flee and live in the wild when his life was in danger from a rebellious son's treachery. But the Bible records that it wasn't the palace or throne David missed most while on the run. David's greatest longing was to worship God in his temple again. He wrote, "I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory" (Psalm 63).

Somewhat like David, while we've been able to worship, be fed, and pray during this time at home, we've probably all experienced a longing to worship together in God's house again. At long last, we can. Your church Council met this past week and approved a plan to return to in-person worship this next Saturday and Sunday, **May 23-24**. A few things to note:

- The guidance of local health and safety officials was greatly appreciated;
- Other WELS Intermountain West congregations have already returned to worship;
- A detailed plan for in-person worship which meets the CDC recommendations will be shared with you electronically in the coming days;
- We will be providing...
 - o **One Saturday** evening service at Boise, at **6:30 pm** each week,
 - o **Three Sunday** services at Boise, at 8:30, **9:45**, & 11 am,
 - o **One Sunday** service at **Jak*s Place** in Nampa, at 9:30 am,
 - o **No Monday** services.

Thank you for your patience, encouragement, and trust in your Savior during this time away. And please know, if you are uncomfortable in any way with "in-person" worship at this time, that's okay! You should not feel ANY pressure to return until you feel safe. We will continue to provide online worship opportunities for you. We look forward to seeing you soon!

May God continue to bless all of you,
Your Pastors

Holy Communion

We will host another opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper privately THIS Sunday, **May 17**. Click [HERE](#) for our pastors' explanation and the link to sign up.

A Way to Help

There is much we cannot do right now – but there is much we CAN do, including acknowledging and supporting some of the most vulnerable in our communities, for whom experiencing a pandemic is more difficult than you probably imagine.

We've partnered with Boise Rescue Mission (with facilities in Boise and Nampa) to fill some of their most urgent needs! They're listed here on this Amazon shopping list:

www.tinyurl.com/CoCBRMMay20.

Click, tap, shop, share. Let's see how long it takes us to clear out the list!

(You may need to register with Amazon Smile before using the list; this program gives a percentage of <all> your Amazon purchases to the charity of your choice. Designating Boise Rescue Mission and purchasing something on their list is a double gift! You can change your charity designation at any time.)

Free E-book: Finding Hope in Times of Crisis

The coronavirus pandemic, with all the upending of life it brought, has led many people to a time of crisis. Crisis moments can be collective (like a global pandemic) or individual (like sudden loss). They can bring a host of complicating factors that lead to unhealthy isolation, triggers for harmful behavior, loss of motivation, and serious spiritual questions. Pastor Wetzell and Amanda Cadwell, LCPC, have co-written an e-book called *Afraid to Live: Finding Hope in Times of Crisis*. In it, they address these factors and the path toward hope and well-being. You can sign up for your free download of this resource [HERE](#). Share the link with others, too, to help them find hope in Christ during times of crisis.

Summer Camp (VBS) 2020

We absolutely want to be able to hold Summer Camp (aka VBS) as planned (Monday-Thursday, July 6-9, 9am - 12pm). Realistically, however, we are unsure of the feasibility of doing so. Because of that, we're holding off on registration for a bit longer, with the hope that in a couple more weeks we'll have a clearer picture of what July may bring. Thank you for your patience and prayers for everyone involved in making these tough decisions!

DivorceCare - GriefShare

Both DivorceCare and GriefShare support groups are *now meeting online*. If you or anyone you know would benefit from Christ-centered, practical encouragement after the loss of a loved one to death or the loss of a spouse to separation or divorce, please consider using this tremendous resource. You will be given videos to watch on your own, a workbook to use at home, and have the opportunity to meet online for 30 minutes with your group. Follow these links for more information ([GriefShare](#) // [DivorceCare](#)) or call/email/text Pastor Zimpelmann (208-861-3623 / matt.zimpelmann@cocidaho.org).

Did You Miss It?

Have you seen them? 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. Read them for a short devotion, let them guide the subject of your prayers, and share them so they can encourage someone else!

Have You Tried the Easiest Evangelism Ever?

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!

Pastors and Professional Christian Counselors Available

While continuing to practice physical distancing, your pastors are still available to you at any time for counseling or encouragement! Their phone numbers and email addresses are on page five 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, lowered rates, and waived copays.** Find them online at christianfamilysolutions.org or facebook.com/ChristianFamilySolutions.

Offerings of Thanks

Thank you for continuing to worship God with your generous, love-filled gifts to our Savior. The three options for thankful giving are:

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. Hold on to your gifts for now. We trust we will be worshipping together again at some point soon and you can make your gift in person then!

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).

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

Serving	May 17	May 24
Worship Recordings	E. Christianson	TBA
Altar Care	D. McLain	n/a
Tellers	Turley, Walden	Turley, Harris

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 19-20	\$687,043
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$594,556
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$608,628
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$11,750

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!