

PARABLES

LIFE - CHANGING STORIES
FROM JESUS

CROSS OF **CHRIST**

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

(208) 375-3992 + cocidaho.org

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September 15, 2024

Relax. At Cross of Christ, our worship is designed to praise God and enrich faith. We aim to make the service clear and appropriately reverent. For your convenience, the service is printed as well as projected on the screens.

Bring the kids. Our congregation enjoys the worshiping family. In fact, our worship includes a children's message with little ones in mind. That's why children who act up are never viewed as a bother to the worship service. However, parents who want to calm a restless child may do so by walking them in the lobby. Video & audio of the worship service are available in the lobby to assist families with their worship. A private parents' room is located in the alcove to your left as you exit the chapel.

Don't feel obligated. Our members give offerings to the Lord as an expression of our thanks and praise for his amazing love. Visitors, please know that you are our guests. We're happy you came today to hear about Jesus and his Word. You are not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

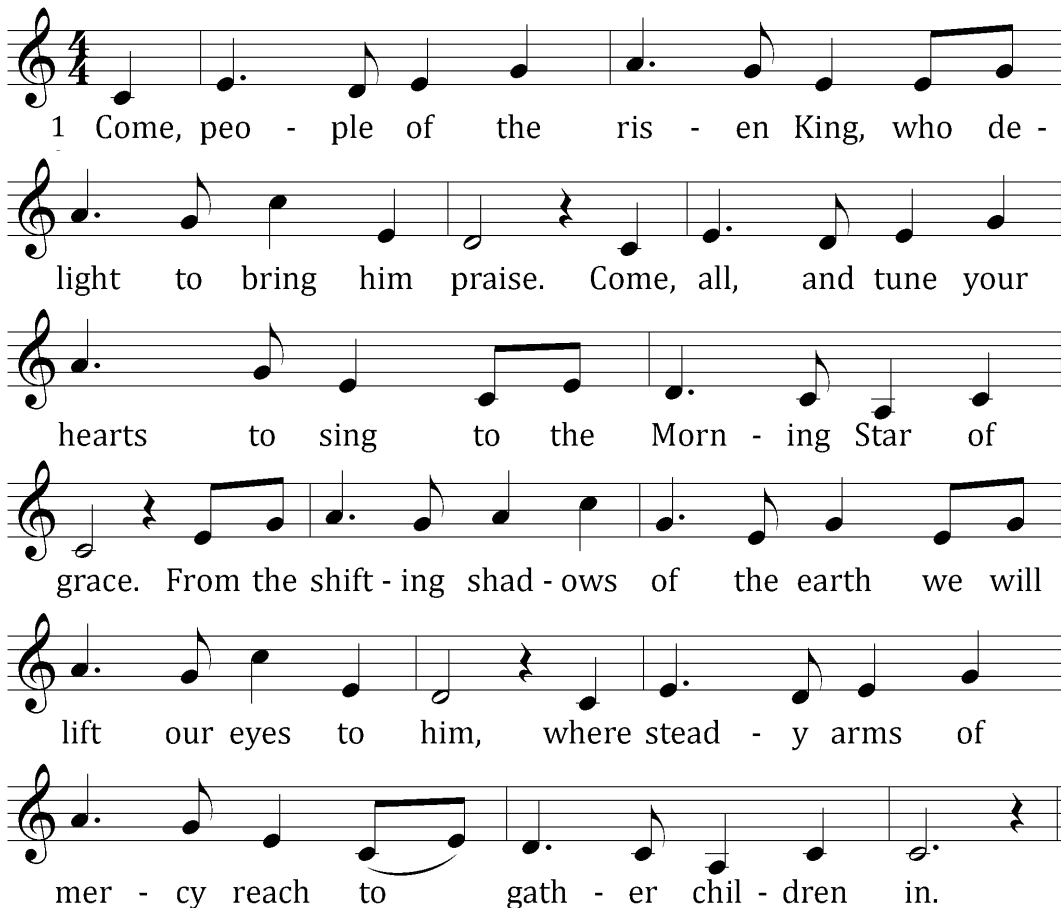
Make yourself at home. After our services, we join together in the lobby for coffee and conversation. We'd be honored if you would join us!

Restrooms are located to the left and right of the water fountain in the lobby.

Questions? If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, feel free to speak with one of our pastors after the service. More information is also available online at cocidaho.org.

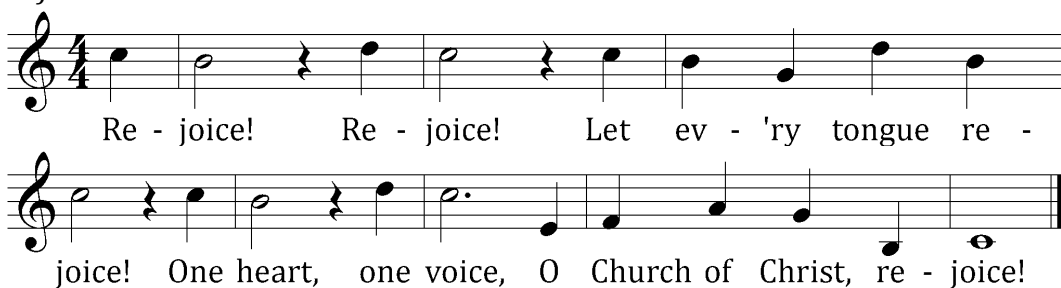
Opening Song

“Come, People of the Risen King”



1 Come, peo - ple of the ris - en King, who de -
light to bring him praise. Come, all, and tune your
hearts to sing to the Morn - ing Star of
grace. From the shift - ing shad - ows of the earth we will
lift our eyes to him, where stead - y arms of
mer - cy reach to gath - er chil - dren in.

Refrain



Re - jice! Re - jice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re -
jice! One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, re - jice!

continued on the next page

**Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
and those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won, and those struggling in the fight.
For his perfect love will never change, and his mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days with the certain hope of peace.**

Refrain

**Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev'ry tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!**

**Come, young and old from ev'ry land, men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands; find the riches of his grace.
Over all the world his people sing; shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through ev'ry age: "Our God is all in all!" *Refrain***

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A Dialogue of Repentance and Forgiveness

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Our God is a God who forgives and saves. This is the greatest news of all! Left to ourselves, we would have been lost and separated from God forever. But God's grace is greater than our sins. Let's come before him, laying all our sins and burdens at the cross, and finding again our heavenly Father's welcome.

Just and gracious God, I confess my many sins. When I pursue the lies of this world or when I overly value my self-righteousness, it all reflects a heart that wanders from you. Though my sins should separate me from you forever, I thank you for Jesus. Thank you for your undeserved love. Thank you for giving me an eternal home.

You are saved because of Jesus, and your sins are taken away forever! Jesus' perfect life, innocent death, and resurrection to life have accomplished it all so you can be God's holy child. By believing in Jesus, all is well with you and God. You are forgiven and set free. Live as God's forgiven child.

Amen!

God's Word

Isaiah 12

¹In that day you will say:

"I will praise you, LORD.

Although you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away
and you have comforted me.

²Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation."

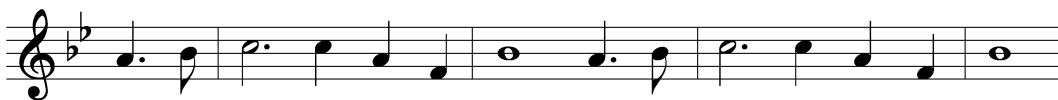
³With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

⁴In that day you will say:

"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done,
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778, alt.

Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872. Text and tune: Public domain.

Message from God's Word

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.

²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ...

¹¹Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²²“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹“ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

Our Mission: Impacting Lives for Eternity

Offerings

If you would like to give an offering in-person to support gospel ministry at and through Cross of Christ, in gratitude to our gracious God, offering plates are available in the lobby. You can also give your gift online at cocidaho.org/give.



Statement of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer and 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.

The Lord's Supper

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians, united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask only those who have made that public confession of faith by being a member of our congregation or another WELS or ELS congregation come forward to receive Communion. Guests, please ask one of our pastors if you have questions. We are eager to listen and visit with you about the blessings of this Supper and of that unity at a convenient time.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us, and grant us your peace. Amen.**

Distribution Song

“Love Still Bids You Welcome”

sung by the vocalist

O God of grace, how often have I grieved thee,
How seldom have I sung thy praise,
And little do I know how much I need thee,
And time again I turn away.

For how my heart is hard and unbelieving,
For all I've done and left undone,
Your love is not reluctant to receive me;
My soul draws back but love says, “Come.”

Refrain

He will not cast you out,
He will not cast you out,
Whoever enters in
Will forever dwell with him.
Draw near, faint heart, draw near –
Love still bids you welcome here.

O Father, when I sin against my neighbor,
I turn away your very Son
Who died to call us friends when we were strangers,
And says to ev'ry sinner, “Come.” *Refrain*

O Lord of light, you call us out of darkness
To turn aside from sin and live,
And prodigals, we come to you for pardon;
Oh, Abba, Father take us in. *Refrain*

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Blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen!

Closing Song

“May the Peace of God”



1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther,
2 May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,



and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,
and this grace which makes us what we are,



and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it
and this fel - low - ship of his com - mun - ion



keep our hearts and minds with - in his love.
make us one in spir - it and in heart.



Refrain
And to him be praise for his glo - rious reign

from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.

We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain—

Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings.

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Silent Prayer

Father in heaven, I do not deserve a place in your family. Yet, because of Christ, you call me your child and welcome me home. Fill my life with love and thankfulness for you. Save me from the lies of this world and from the temptations of my heart. Strengthen me to live instead as your child every day. Amen.

Acknowledgments

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Calendar & Announcements

Sept 15-22	Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road)	Nampa (6134 Birch Lane)
Sunday	8:30am – Worship (communion) 9:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship (communion)	9:30am – Worship (communion) 10:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class Kids’ Sunday School
Thursday	6:30pm- Cross Connections	6:30pm - Men’s & Women’s Bible Study
Friday		10:00am- Mommy & Me (Zoo Boise)
Saturday	9:30am- Digging Deeper Class	
Sunday	8:30am – Worship 9:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship	9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class Kids’ Sunday School (age 2-7)

THIS WEEK

Fall Worship Series

Parables: Life-Changing Stories from Jesus

Does life feel complicated? Do you wish you could just sit at Jesus' feet and have him explain it all to you? Jesus did a lot of teaching during his earthly ministry and some of his most impactful truths he shared through stories. We call those stories parables. Let's spend time this fall with Jesus *as he unravels through these stories the nature of the gospel* — the good news of God's grace for all of us — *and the impact it has on our lives*. Invite a friend!

Sunday Morning Spiritual Growth for All Ages

9:45-10:45am

Teen/Adult Bible Study "Marriage and Singlehood" (in the chapel)

All are invited as we explore God's good design for both married and single people. We will see the *purpose* of marriage and singlehood, *unique blessings and challenges* for both callings, and how God calls us to *support* married and single people in our church family. Regardless of your "relationship status," you'll walk away with plenty of practical guidance and life-application!

Youth Confirmation Class (9:45am)

7th grade & older, Room 5 (down the hall to the right)

Sunday School (9:45am)

Age 2 – 6th grade, all meet in the gym! (all the way down the hall)

Fall Growth Groups – last chance to get on board!

These small groups meet weekly at church and in members' homes to apply God's Word to our lives and get to know each other better. The fall session began last week – but you can still pick a group! – and runs through the week of Oct 20.

Sign up for a group on the lobby bulletin board or at tinyurl.com/GGfall2024.

Daily Devotional

The September-November Meditations booklet is available for you on the tables in the lobby. This daily devotional provides food for your faith and encouragement for life. Please feel free to take one for yourself and a friend!

SERVE: Outreach

Many thanks to those who have committed to serving in various coordinator and team member roles at both campuses, as we implement our new ministry structure! We are still looking for an individual to serve as **Outreach Coordinator** for the Boise campus.

If you have any interest in simply learning more about what this entails, please contact Pastor Hein (greg.hein@cocidaho.org) to get some info, no strings attached.

Or if you know someone you think might be interested or be suited to this area of ministry, encourage them to reach out as well! We're confident God will provide the right person.

Pastor Call Updates

Pastor Jesse Stern has returned the Call to serve at Cross of Christ and will continue as pastor at Bay Pines Lutheran Church in Seminole, Florida. We ask God's blessings on his continued ministry there.

The next meeting to review candidates and issue another Call is **Monday, September 23, 6:30 pm on the Boise campus**. All members are encouraged to participate in this important process!

Mommy & Me Sept 20: Zoo Boise

Mommy & Me is a free school-year program for kids age 5 and under with a caregiver. The first Friday of each month is a themed playdate at our Nampa campus; the third Friday of each month is a field trip to a fun Treasure Valley location.



We'll visit Zoo Boise on September 20 at 10:00 am – come along! Cost is \$5 per person, age 2 & under are free. If it's your first time coming, would you let us know? Register at cocidaho.org/connect/mommy-and-me or the QR code.

UPCOMING

2024 Ladies Retreat: Registration Deadline Sept 22

This year's ladies retreat is October 4-6 in beautiful Donnelly, ID. All ladies in 6th grade and older are invited to gather for a weekend of being refreshed in God's Word and Christian connection! Cost is \$125, for two nights' lodging, four meals, activities & materials.

For further details and to register, visit cocidaho.org/retreat. Direct questions to Mandy Watkins (210-425-3270, amanda.watkins99@yahoo.com).

Women's Bible Study Begins September 23

The Boise campus Women's Bible Study Group will kick off a fall session Monday, September 23, **at 9:30 am**. Please note the new time! We'll meet Mondays at 9:30 am through Monday, December 16 (no meeting on 11/25).

We'll be discussing the book, "Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up? 12 False Christs" by Matthew Richard (CPH/2017, provided for all participants). This book reminds us who the real Jesus of the Bible is and reveals twelve false christs who are embraced, loved, promoted, and revered. All women are invited to come be challenged, equipped, and comforted!

Please register online at tinyurl.com/WBSFall24 or on the lobby bulletin board, so we can make sure we have enough books!

Adult Choir Open Invitation

Like to sing? You're invited to join a group of folks who feel the same, as we prepare special music for worship later in October. We'll rehearse Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15pm, Sept 25 thru Oct 23, and then sing for both services on October 27. Open to folks 9th grade and older; all experience & skill levels welcome! Please let director Kristen Koepsell know if you plan to participate, or if you'd simply like a little more information (kristen.koepsell@cocidaho.org).

Fall Festival: October 27, 3-5pm

1. Save the date for this fun family event!
2. Start thinking about friends or neighbors you could invite!
3. Consider assisting with the planning! Food, activities, hospitality, trunk-or-treat, etc. If you'd like to help pull this amazing afternoon together, get in touch with Mandy Watkins right away! (210-425-3270, amanda.watkins99@yahoo.com)

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Last Weekend's Worship	98/102	110	310
Livestream Views	13		
Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study	60	49	109
Kids' Sunday School	25	21	46
Men's Bible Study/Women's Bible Study	n/a	7 / n/a	7 / n/a
Cross Connections	n/a	6	6

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 24-25</i>	\$816,957
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$157,107
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$128,199
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$16,378

Serving	September 15		September 22	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Altar Care	TBD	K. Struthers	TBD	K. Struthers
AV Tech	J. Parsons, S. Tews	E. Christianson, M. Hartman	Malnes	C. Klink, D. Wilson
Bulletins	n/a	L. Kimmel, Y. Whitlach	n/a	R. Ritger, B. Ford, D. Ashley
Cleaning	TBD	Turley	TBD	n/a
Coffee	TBD	K. Struthers, Welch	TBD	K. Struthers, Welch
Flowers	n/a	Loring	n/a	AVAILABLE
Mowing	n/a	J. Malnes, T. Masters	n/a	J. Harris M. Wilson
Music	L. Becker, K. Wetzel	Koepsell, Berrier, Caudill Manglos	R. Dodd	K. Koepsell
Close	n/a	E. Christianson	n/a	Butterfield
Tellers	Rule, Christianson, Walden		Harris, Butterfield, Rule	
Ushers	TBD	Broyles, Geary	TBD	B. Walters, R. Seely