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LOVE • TRANSFORM • SERVE

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3rd Sunday in Lent 2021

When (Jesus) was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. John 2:23

Dear faith community of Cross of Hope,

Grace and peace be with you all today! Today is the 52nd week of digital worship as our primary gathering of our community during this global pandemic. No one envisioned an entire year of having to limit our gathering because of COVID-19. It has not been easy. God is faithful and we appreciate everyone's prayer, presence, and patience as we've navigated this time faithfully and creatively together. There are signs of hope as the number of people in the community receiving their vaccinations increase and the transmission rate and number of cases in the community decreases.

It has become clear that feeling comfortable returning to gathering for worship will not be the same for everyone. There probably will not be a 'light switch' moment where things change.

While we are still months away from leaving the masks at home and standing shoulder to shoulder in worship, we do know that many of you are feeling safer and more comfortable attending worship in-person with our COVID-safe practices, and for many of you, your vaccine (to register go to <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org>).

In order to continue to care for one another through this pandemic, we will continue with our COVID-safe practices of all wearing masks, keeping at least 2 chairs between non-family members, servers wearing gloves and individual glasses at communion, limiting our communal singing and speaking, and staying home if showing symptoms of illness.

In order to accommodate the increase in those able to gather in person for worship in our limited space with COVID-safe practices, we'll begin to add worship opportunities that also take advantage of the warming New Mexico weather.

Starting on Easter Sunday, April 4th we will offer in-person worship at:

9am – 45 minute worship in the worship space.

10am – 10:30am – Walk-up communion on the lawn. *(note the shorter window)*

11am – 45 minute worship on the lawn.

Please note that at this time both worship opportunities will be identical, and we'll evaluate the need to increase the number of worship opportunities as health orders, vaccination rates, and community interest dictate.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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We will continue to offer worship together on all our digital channels at 9am until the pandemic is over and all feel comfortable gathering in person.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness as we share this journey.

Peace on behalf of the Congregation Council,

Pr. Adam Berndt



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