

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On a section of Hwy 16 in West Salem, Wisconsin, Christ Lutheran Church and Christ-St. John's Lutheran School (WELS) has a display during the Lenten and Easter seasons. This display encourages those who see it, to think about the true meaning of the Lenten and Easter seasons.

In the grassy area beside the church/school, are 3 empty crosses. They are a representation of Golgotha, the site of Christ's crucifixion. The middle cross is bigger, because it denotes Christ's cross. The other two, represent the crosses of the thieves, the criminals, who were crucified alongside Jesus. (See attached photo.)

Today (Thursday) is the day that we remember the "Ascension of Our Lord," as we read these words from scripture--"Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God" (Luke 24:50-53, NRSV).

As we focus on the empty cross in the center of this photo, we realize that it is not all that we see. We also see the highway with cars and businesses to the left, as well as trees and houses surrounding it to the right. Perhaps this setting reminds us that even though Christ's earthly body is no longer here on earth, Christ is present with us in our daily lives. As we look at the empty crosses, and especially the center cross, may we remember the resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ; Christ whom we are to place first and foremost, front and center in our daily lives. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy