

**Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool
March 10, 2024**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Mark Selbo

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Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA – www.elca.org)



All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

– Silence for reflection –

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may
delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

SONG: Lift High the Cross, ELW #660

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world – adore – his sacred name.**

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod;
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Lift high the cross...**

All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. **Lift high the cross...**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. **Lift high the cross...**

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Lift high the cross...**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READING – Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor (the Israelites) set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people and they bit the people so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole and whenever a serpent bit someone that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.
**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;**

he sent out his word and healed them
and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.

And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

READING – Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved —and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

– Please stand as you are able –

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – ELW #616

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

THE GOSPEL – John 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to You, O Lord.

(Jesus said:) “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON – “A Costly Cure”

SONG: What Feast of Love, ELW #487

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

APOSTLES' CREED

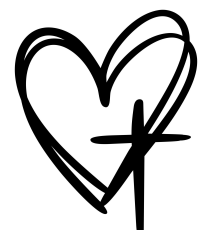
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*

Hear us, O God... Your mercy is great.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.
– Please share a greeting or sign of peace –



GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**



WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice. All are welcome.*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, ELW #803

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet; sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Congregation Meeting Notes – Available on the information table.** Thank you for your attendance and input during our March 3 meeting.
- **Good Friday Worship** – Friday, March 29 at 7 p.m.
- **Decorate for Easter** – Currently planned for Saturday, March 30 at 9:30 a.m. Please decorate butterflies (available on the info table) that we will use to decorate the church. Consider sharing pots of spring flowers for Easter. Thank you.
- **Easter Sunday Worship** – March 31 at 9:30 a.m., followed by fellowship
- **PreSchool Birthday Bash & Bazaar – Saturday, April 27 from 10 to 2.** Please come and shop! Invite your friends!
- **Mother's Day Bags April 28** – Sue's Pantry asked if we could create a treat for the many women she serves. Holly is gathering items for us to pack gift bags. Assembly date tentatively planned for April 28 after church. If you would like to donate toward the cost of the items, please reach out to Holly (HollySJ@earthlink.net). Thank you.
- **Caring Hands** – March 16, April TBD, May 18, June 15 from 9 to noon.
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contributed to our deliveries to the Chicago homeless encampment near Pastor Padraig's house. We continue to collect blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, gloves, feminine products, and Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – For asylum seekers living in Chicago shelters. New wishlist diapers, formula, coats, children's clothes (baby to teen), children's/adult cold medicines, cough drops, Advil,/Tylenol, shoes, coats, strollers, book bags, suitcases, storage bins with lids.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a child or family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online.
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you for supporting our partner Scouts as they have supported us. **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa (tc calabrese98@gmail.com).
- **Prayer concerns?** Please consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Please email ChristLutheranVH@aol.com with your request. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Team, please send an email.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support the efforts of this community, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, ChristLutheranVH.org. Thank you.