

# Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool March 17, 2024

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

**Rev. Gail Heidtke**

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Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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### 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: Great Is Thy Faithfulness, ELW #733**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father. There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changes not, thy compassions, they fail not.  
As thou has been thou forever wilt be.

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!**  
**Morning by morning new mercies I see.**  
**All I have needed thy hand hath provided.**  
**Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest;  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. ***Great is thy faithfulness...***

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! ***Great is thy faithfulness...***

## **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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our  
prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death  
we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **READING – Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the  
house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with  
their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt —  
a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the  
covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will  
put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and  
they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other,  
“Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says  
the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God*

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 51:1-12**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
**according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
**and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,  
**and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight  
**so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Indeed, I was born guilty,  
**a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

You desire truth in the inward being;  
**therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;  
**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.  
**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

## **READING – Hebrews 5:5-10**

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

*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 12:20-33**

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people[a] to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

## **SERMON – Rev. Gail Heidtke**

### **SONG: Now the Green Blade Rises, ELW #379**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;  
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again like what arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
Thinking that he would never wake again,  
Laid in the earth, like grain that sleeps unseen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain.  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again.  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

## **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: O Christ the Same, WOV #778**

*(Printed on bulletin insert – melody is Danny Boy – Happy St. Patrick's Day)*

O Christ the same, through all our story's pages.  
Our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;  
Eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,  
Unchanging still amid the passing years.

O living Word, the source of all creation,  
who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze.  
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,  
we bring our thanks for all our yes-ter-days.

## **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](mailto:HollySJ@earthlink.net)). Thank you.
- **Caring Hands** – 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 ([tcalabrese98@gmail.com](mailto:tcalabrese98@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](mailto: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](http://ChristLutheranVH.org). Thank you.