

# Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

March 23, 2025

## Third Sunday in Lent

Rev. Joleen Gleasman

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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: As the Deer Runs to the River, #331 (Melody is #470, Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether)**

*Verses 1, 2, 3; Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal.*

As the deer runs to the river, parched and weary from the chase;  
We have come from hurt and hurry, thirsting for your healing grace.  
Jesus, source of living water, may we drink of you and live!

When your Israel crossed the desert where no stream or spring was seen;  
Moses struck the rock and water flowed for them, refreshing, clean.  
Jesus, source of living water, may we drink of you and live!

"Come and drink," Isaiah summoned, "all who for God's mercy plead!  
God's forgiveness, like a fountain, flows to satisfy your need."  
Jesus, source of living water, may we drink of you and live!

## **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**

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death  
and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your  
saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **READING – Isaiah 55:1-9**

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 63:1-8**

O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;  
**my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.**

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
**beholding your power and glory.**

Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
**my lips will praise you.**

So I will bless you as long as I live;  
**I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
**and my mouth praises you with joyful lips**

when I think of you on my bed  
**and meditate on you in the watches of the night,**

for you have been my help,  
**and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

My soul clings to you;  
**your right hand upholds me.**

## **READING – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

*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 – Luke 13:1-9**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

**SERMON – Rev. Joleen Gleasman**

## **SONG: Healer of Our Every Ill, ELW #612**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

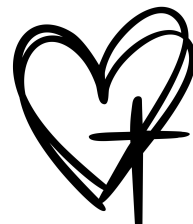
**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

1. You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with our peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts... **Healer of our ev'ry ill...**
2. In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love... **Healer of our ev'ry ill...**
3. Give us strength to love each other,  
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide... **Healer of our ev'ry ill...**
4. You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart... **Healer of our ev'ry ill...**

## **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)*  
*God of grace... Receive our prayer.*





## 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's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

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

## **SONG: Go My Children, with My Blessing, #543**

*Verses 1 & 3; Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

## **DISMISSAL**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Lenten Soup Supper** – Wed, March 26 at 7p; Sign up to bring soup, bread, salad or dessert – or just join us. There is always plenty. See Penni to help ([penry4@gmail.com](mailto:penry4@gmail.com))
- **Good Friday Worship** – Friday, April 18 at 7 p.m.
- **Giving Statements emailed on January 19** – Reach out to [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) if you did not receive or need assistance.
- **PreSchool Birthday Bash** – Saturday, April 26; Please help collect raffle items.
- **Thank you, Kathy** – We lift up PreSchool Director Kathy Davis, who has announced her upcoming retirement.
- **Supporting the Homeless** – Thank you to all who sent items for the camp near Pastor Padraig's home in Chicago. Thank you!
- **Caring Hands** – 9a to Noon on the following Saturdays: April 12, May 17, June 21, September 20, October 18, November 15. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hats/ mittens. ([CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com](mailto:CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com))
- **Donating to Wildfire Victims** – ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the oldest, most effective and most respected organizations for getting money where it can be put to good use. Donate at [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org). There is also a link on our website under "WORK."
- **Scouting!** – Boys and girls ages Kindergarten through high school have an opportunity to build skills and have fun through Scouting. Thanks for supporting our Pack/Troop 273!
- **PreSchool Prayers** – Keep the children, families and staff of our PreSchool in prayer.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Call for toilet paper! And 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 family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.) (<https://loveinclakecounty.org/>)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. ([CoolMinistries.org](http://CoolMinistries.org))
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) with your request. Would you join with us in prayer? Send an email to be included on the prayer mailing list. The task is simple-but-powerful – when time permits, open the email and read/pray with us.
- **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 our service, 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!