

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

March 30, 2025

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: Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, #857

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal.

Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high. **(REPEAT)**

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

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your
mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table
of 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 – Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.”
And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in
Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the
plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce
of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. The manna ceased on the day they
ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops
of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

READING – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to (Jesus). And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

SERMON – “A Father’s Love”

SONG: Our Father, We Have Wandered, #606

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

Our Father, we have wandered, and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame;
as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.

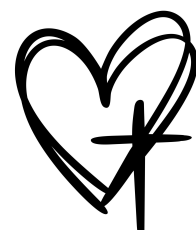
And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning, with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring;
In gladness there to greet us, with calf and robe and ring.

O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored;
Compassionate, forgiving, and ever-caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

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 receive Communion or you may request a blessing. You are also welcome to remain in your seat to pray. Welcome!

Today we will offer both single-serving Communion kits as well as a traditional distribution of bread and wine. Please choose as you feel comfortable.

Single-serving kits are available in the first tray. Select a sealed cup and bring it back to your seat to open and partake. Once at your seat, peel back the top layer to find the wafer, and then the bottom seal to drink. An usher will offer a basket to collect the empty container.

If you would like Traditional Communion, select an empty cup from the second tray and come forward to the Pastor, who will place a piece of bread into your open hand. The assistant will then pour wine into your cup. Your empty cup may be placed in the trays at each side as you return to your seat. 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: My God, How Wonderful Thou Art, #863

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal.

My God, how wonderful thou art, thy majesty how bright!
How beautiful thy mercy seat in depths of burning light!

How wonderful, how beautiful, the sight of thee must be;
Thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r, and awesome purity!

No earthly father loves like thee; No mother, e'er so mild,
bears and forbears as thou has done with me, thy sinful child.

Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, almighty as thou art,
for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.

My God, how wonderful though art, thou everlasting friend!
On thee I stay my trusting heart, till faith in vision end.

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **PreSchool Birthday Bash** – Saturday, April 26; Please start collecting raffle items.
- **Thank you, Kathy** – We especially lift up PreSchool Director Kathy Davis, who has announced her upcoming retirement.
- **Yard Work Volunteers** – We tried to find a lawn care company we could afford in order to take the burden off of our volunteers, however services were going to cost of many thousands of dollars. We have found additional helpers, but could still use people to help mow, trim and keep things looking nice. If you can help, please reach out to Holly at hollysj@earthlink.net
- **Giving Statements emailed on January 19** – Reach out to ChristLutheranVH@aol.com if you did not receive or need assistance.
- **Supporting the Homeless** – Thank you to all who sent items for the camp near Pastor Padraig's home in Chicago. There was so much we must send a second load. 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)
- **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. 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)
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email 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. Thank you!