

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025 • 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Selbo

Website: ChristLutheranVH.org

Twitter: [@ChristLuthVH](https://twitter.com/ChristLuthVH)

Facebook: [/ChristLutheranVH](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranVH)

Church: 847-367-5787
ChristLutheranVH@aol.com

Preschool: 847-367-5791
CLCPreschool@aol.com

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.

Silence is kept as we enter into tonight's worship

SONG: Chief of Sinners Though I Be, ELW #609

Verses 1, 4, 5; Printed on bulletin insert or hymnal

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me;
Died that I might live on high; lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.

Chief of sinner though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to him are known; all my sorrows are his own.
He sustains the hidden life, safe with him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford by your Spirit and your word!
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply, while I live and when I die.



WELCOME & 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.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*All who wishes may come forward to receive ashes on their forehead or on the back of their hand. Let an usher know if you would like ashes brought to you as you remain seated.
Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

SONG DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES: Amazing Grace, ELW #779

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we'd first begun.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.**

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

Let us pray: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness through 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: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

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

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 51:1-17

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.

– continued –

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20 through 6:2

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

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. (*Repeat*)

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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

MESSAGE – “A Vertical and Horizontal Faith”



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...**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (on separate sheet)

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of grace... Receive our prayer.

Additional prayers follow

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

– Please share a sign of peace or greeting –

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 and praise.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(in the presider's book)*

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 God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

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: My Faith Looks Up to Thee, ELW #759

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away.

Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide.

Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
more let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
Blest Savior, then, in love fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thank you for taking part in the Congregation Meeting.** Notes are available on the information table in the Fellowship Hall or on the website (ChristLutheranVH.org).
- **Thank you, Kathy** – We especially lift up PreSchool Director Kathy Davis, who has announced her upcoming retirement.
- **Giving Statements emailed on January 19** – Reach out to ChristLutheranVH@aol.com if you did not receive or need assistance.
- **Lenten Soup Supper** – Wed, March 26 TBD; See Penni to help (penry4@gmail.com)
- **PreSchool Birthday Bash** – Saturday, April 26; Please start collecting raffle items.
- **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: March 15, April 12, May 17, June 21, September 20, October 18, November 15. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hats/mittens. (CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com)
- **Registration Open for Summer Kids Kamp** – Ages 2.5 through 10, plus counselors in training and interns. Check the PreSchool website
- **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!