

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool
April 3, 2026 • 7 p.m.
Ash Wednesday
Rev. Joleen Gleasman

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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.

Tonight we celebrate Holy Communion. 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. 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. All are welcome.

**SILENCE IS KEPT BEFORE WORSHIP
CHIMES WILL SIGNAL START OF SERVICE**

INVOCATION

Our worship begins in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, #490

Verses 1 & 2; Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessings in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending, comes full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful, his own self for heavenly food.

COMMUNION READING

READER: Now the feast of Unleavened Bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. Jesus said unto his disciples, “You know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of Man is to be betrayed and crucified.” And they went and found as he had said unto them, and they made ready the Passover. And when the hour had come, he sat down, and the twelve disciples with him.

PASTOR: And Jesus said unto them, “I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” And he took the bread, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples and said, “Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he took the cup and gave thanks and said, “Drink it, all of you, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.” For I say, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God shall come.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to come forward for Holy Communion or a blessing. At the end of Communion, the items remaining on the altar will be removed, except for a series of candles.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, your ways are mysterious to us. We can't comprehend that you would send your Son to us, to live with us, to love us, to suffer as we do. Only through the eyes of salvation can we see your almighty grace. Help us to see this incredible gift as we walk with Jesus this night. **Amen.**

SONG: Go to Dark Gethsemane, #347 (vs 1)

Verse 1; Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

**Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see; Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

Please remain seated throughout the readings

Readings are provided on the bulletin insert

READER: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; Glorify your Son.” To the disciples he said, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.’” And when he came to that place, he said to his disciples, “Pray that you do not enter temptation.” And Jesus withdrew from them about a stone’s throw and prayed, “Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me, nevertheless not my will, but thine be done.”

READER: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I shall kiss is the man. Seize him.” So the soldiers, their officers and the police arrested Jesus and bound him. Then they took Jesus to Annias, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.

A candle is extinguished as we sing

SONG: Go to Dark Gethsemane, #347 (vs 2)

**Follow to the judgement hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame or loss;
Learn from him to bear the cross.**

READER: The disciples fled but Peter followed at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. He sat among the guards, warming himself at the fire. While Peter was warming himself, one of the maids came, looked at Peter, and said, “You also were with him, the Nazarene Jesus.” The maid asked three times, and three times Peter denied knowing Jesus, saying, “I don’t know the man.” Then the cock crowed three times, and remembering the words of Jesus, Peter went out and wept bitterly.

READER: Meanwhile in the hall, the chief priests and the whole council sought testimony against Jesus. But their witnesses did not agree. As soon as it was morning, the chief priests with their leaders and scribes and the whole council held a consultation. They bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. (They themselves did not enter the headquarters to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover.) So Pilate went out to meet them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Jewish leaders replied, “We are not permitted to put a man to death.”

READER: Then Pilate entered the judgement hall again. He asked Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this yourself or did others tell you of me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and priests have delivered you to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would fight, and I would not be delivered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this world. To this end was I born, and for this cause I came into this world, to bear witness to the truth.” Pilate answered, “What is truth?”

A candle is extinguished as we sing

SONG: Stay with Me, #348

Stay with me. Remain here with me.

Watch and pray. Watch and pray. (Repeat)

READER: And the Jewish people became more fierce, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching among all Jews, beginning from Galilee to this place.” Pilate hearing that he was a Galilean, sent Jesus to Herod. When Herod saw Jesus, he was glad as he had heard many things about Jesus. Herod questioned him with many words. His men of war mocked him and arrayed Jesus in a robe. The chief priests vehemently accused Jesus. Jesus remained silent and Herod, removing the robe, returned Jesus to Pilate.

READER: Pilate then reconvened the priests and rulers of the people, saying “You have brought this man to me and I find no fault in him. I will therefore chastise him and release him.” The crowd yelled, “Crucify him! Crucify him.” At the feat, there was a custom to release a prisoner whom they wanted. And the crowd cried, “Barrabas.” Pilate asked what he was to do about Jesus. The crowd said, “Let him be crucified.” Then he released for them Barabbas. When Pilate saw that he could not prevail, he took water and washed his hands, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just man. See to it.” The soldiers led Jesus away, clothed him with a purple robe and a crown of thorns, and put a reed in his hand. The crowd then cried again, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

A candle is extinguished as we sing

SONG: Jesus, Remember Me, #616

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

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

(Repeat)

READER: Having scourged Jesus, they took Jesus, carrying the cross by himself, to a hill called *The Place of the Skull*, which in Hebrew is called *Golgotha*. On the way, Jesus kept falling. They found a man, Simon of Cyrene, that we would carry the cross for Jesus. Along the way, the women wept. Jesus looked at them and said, “Weep not for me but for yourselves. Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore, and the paps that never suckled.” When they reached Golgotha, they gave Jesus wine mixed with myrrh, but Jesus refused. They hanged him on the cross with two malefactors, one on each side. It was the third hour, and Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

READER: Pilate wrote on the cross, *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews* in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. One of the malefactors railed at Jesus, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us.” The other malefactor rebuked him and said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And Jesus said, “Truly I say unto you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Meanwhile, standing near the cross was his mother, his mother’s sisters, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whose he loved standing beside her, Jesus said to his Mother, “Woman, behold your son.” And to the disciple, he said, “Behold your mother.” And the disciple took her into his own home.

A candle is extinguished as we sing

SONG: Were You There, #353 (v 1)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

READER: When the sixth hour came, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. At the ninth hour, Jesus said with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani,” which is “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Now that Jesus knew all was finished, he said, “I thirst.” One of the soldiers there put a sponge full of wine on a hyssop. Then Jesus said, “It is finished.” While the sun’s light failed, Jesus cried, “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.” And he breathed his last. The earth shook, the rocks split, and the tombs were opened. The centurion who stood facing Jesus said, “Truly this man was the Son of God.” When it was evening, Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus, wrapped him in a clean shroud, and laid Jesus in his own tomb and departed.

The last candle is extinguished as we sing

SONG: Were You There, #353 (vs 2)

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

We now take time for silence and reflection.

Pastor will extinguish the last candles when she is ready to leave.

WE LEAVE IN SILENCE

When you are ready to leave, please leave in silence.

Please join us on Easter Sunday at 9:30a