



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FIRST LENTEN WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 2024

INTERCEPTED AND REDIRECTED

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are glad that you are here to worship with us today! Please sign the pew booklets in the pews. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself and sign our guest book in the narthex along with the pew booklet.

***Please stand as you are able.**

❖Please be seated.

Prelude: Carla Kuehn

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Return to the Lord your God. **Christ crucified, I come.**

Behold his miracle of mercy. **Christ crucified, I come.**

Abide in his steadfast love. **Christ crucified, I come.**

Rest in his unfailing faithfulness. **Christ crucified, I come. Amen.**

Gathering Song

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”

ELW # 619 v. 1-4

Confession and Forgiveness

We gather because God brought us here. We meet because Jesus † sets the table. We worship because the Holy Spirit gives us life. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful God, **we wander. We run away. We think we can do things our own way, but we end up in messes of our own making and problems we cannot solve. Find us when we are stuck, in a Pit of despair or on a boat to nowhere. Reveal our faults and forgive our sin. Send us back out with words and actions to help the world that you love so much.**

Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.

None of us can flee from the love of God, not in the heights of heaven or the pit of grief and loss. God will always find us with love that beckons us home. So hear the words that each of us need. You are loved beyond all knowing. You are forgiven in the name of Lord Jesus Christ †. You are free. You are unfinished. You are beloved. **Amen.**

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** Let us pray:

God of creation and compassion, you often show up in unexpected and disruptive ways. Help us to hear your voice when our lives are churning to recognize your compassion in the storm, and to hope in your resurrection even as we face death. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

❖Lenten Psalm: Psalm 139

¹O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

¹⁹O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—

²⁰those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil!

²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

²²I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

²⁴See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Lenten Reading: Jonah 1:17 – Intercepted and Redirected

¹⁷But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Message

Rev. Erik Karlson

Hymn of the Day

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

ELW # 756

***Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

STEWARDING GOD’S GIFTS

We offer to God what is God’s own

❖Offering

[Please remember to send your much appreciated and needed weekly tithes and offerings.]

[Children are invited to come forward to place their offering in "Christ's Well".]

***Offering Prayer**

And let us pray ... **God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Help us to embrace the responsibility and privilege of managing your blessings with diligence and integrity. Guide these gifts given today for you, your church, and all that are in need. Amen.**

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Blessing

God, the giver of love, ✚ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

Sending Song

“Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

ELW # 545

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ has made you free. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Carla Kuehn



A special thank you to all who assisted with today's worship service:

Organist: Carla Kuehn

Audio/Visual: Mckenzie Ebert

Lector: Bella Feltmann

Ushers: Colton Hahn, Ava Sonju

AV Assistant: Keegan Sauter

Acolyte: Charlie Nelson