



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH LENTEN WEDNESDAY

MARCH 13, 2024

FAITHFUL AND UNFINISHED

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: Vicky Harris

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

“Rise Up, O Saints of God”

ELW # 669

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 promise to finish the work you have begun in us. Until that time, we remain underway – travelers on a long journey. Help us to recognize that you are both our destination and our most faithful companion, reminding us who you are, what you have given us, and how we are to love. Amen.

WORD

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

Lenten Reading: Jonah 4 – Faithful and Unfinished

¹But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Message

Rev. Erik Karlson

Hymn of the Day

“Listen, God is Calling”

ELW # 513

*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

"Here I Am, Lord"

ELW # 574

Dismissal

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

Postlude: Vicky Harris



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

Organist: Vicky Harris

Ushers: Colton Hahn, Lauren Scheidt

Audio/Visual: McKenzie Ebert

AV Assistant: Keenan Coon

Lector: Porter Simonson, Makayla

Acolyte: Lydia Freitag

Mathews