



C H R I S T  
L U T H E R A N  
C H U R C H

Gathering in Worship, Growing in  
God's Word, Serving in Jesus' name

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**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Service of the Word**  
**March 22, 2026**

**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.**

**Service of the Word begins on page 203 in the red hymnal.**

**\*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**

**\*Gathering Song**

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

**ELW # 712**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

### †**Baptism of Emmett Bryan Schuette**

In Holy Baptism our gracious Heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Parents and Sponsors, as you bring, Emmett, to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with the following responsibilities: To live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that Emmett may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world, God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you, beloved people of God, do you promise to support, Emmett, and pray for him in his new life in Christ? If so, please answer...we do. **We do.**

Please stand as you are able as we profess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed. Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

*[Pastor gives prayers for the newly baptized.]*

Emmett Bryan Schuette, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Emmett, you belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Let us pray, We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain, Emmett, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Emmett, beloved child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized. **We welcome you, Emmett, into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming world to all in the world.**

### **Greeting**

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

### **Prayer of the Day**

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

Almighty God, **your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

37 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to

me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.<sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.<sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

*Here ends the readings. Thanks be to God.*

✱ **Gospel Acclamation**      “We are turning Lord...”      **ELW pg. 205**  
Hear now the Holy Gospel according to St. John – this is the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
***Glory to you, O Lord.***

**Gospel: John 11:1-45**

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.<sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,<sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”<sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jewish people were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?”<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world.<sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.”<sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”<sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”<sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.<sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”<sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.<sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,<sup>19</sup> and many of the Jewish people had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.<sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.<sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.<sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”<sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though

they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." <sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jewish people who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jewish people who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jewish people said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." <sup>45</sup> Many of the Jewish people, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

*This is the Gospel of our Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

†Sermon

*Rev. Erik Karlson*

Hymn of the Day

"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

**ELW # 334**

*(vs 1,2,3)*

Prayers of Intercession

Hear Us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.]*

## \*Offering Hymn "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these offerings, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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.*

†Temple Talk – Noisy Pale Offering

**Missions**

## Announcements

## Benediction

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**Sending Song**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

**ELW # 773**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** Carla Kuehn



**A special thank you to all who assisted with our worship service today:**

**Organist:** Carla Kuehn  
**Cantor:** Katherine Grant  
**Lector:** Joan Johnson  
**Acolyte:**

**Head Usher:** Connie Duenow  
**Ushers:** Wally Rannow, Shaun Simonson  
**Audio/Visual:** Roxanne Wavra  
**Greeters:** Twyla Kirkeby

**Kitchen Guild:** Connie Duenow  
**Altar Guild:** Kathy Remus, Diane Adrian

**Refreshments:** Rick & Denise Growe

**Need to contact a staff member? Find their information below:**

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Christian Education Coordinator	Rev. Dr. Ane Fitzgerald	<a href="mailto:clceducation@christluth.com">clceducation@christluth.com</a>	(320)864-3099

**Please lift these people up in prayers this week:** *Mary Entinger, LuAnn Harms, Laura Mackenthun (Daughter of Dennis and Linda Roisum), Mark St. Germain (Son-in-law of Gerald and Vicky Harris), Bev Phifer, Dennis Hendrickson (Father of Connie Duenow), Karen Hunter (Sister of Dianne Von Berge), Teresa Rannow, Brian Jenneke and Brady Jenneke (Son and Grandson of Rodger & Barb Jenneke), Jim Reiners (Brother of Joann Chrast), Lee Hanson, Carleen Bedoway, Lindsey Kirkeby (Daughter-in-law of Twyla), Linda Simonson, Bob Butcher, Dion VonBerge (Daughter-in-law of Robert and Dianne VonBerge), Desiree Leinhard (niece of Bonnie, cousin of Jamie Alsleben), Loren Mueller, Gloria Kaytor, Rollie Rehmann, Glenora Hoversten, Jim Carlson.*

**THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN**

**Sunday, March 22,** Service of the Word at 9 AM in the Sanctuary; Cub Scouts at 3 PM in Fellowship Hall.

**Monday, March 23,** Worship Service Televised at 3:00 PM on Channel 10.

**Tuesday, March 24,** Women's Bible Study at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room.

**Wednesday, March 25,** Pastoral Text Study at 1:00 PM in the Fireside Room; Worship Service Televised at 2:00 PM on Channel 10; Lenten Soup Supper at 5:15 PM in Fellowship Hall; Choir Practice at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

**Thursday, March 26,** Men's Bible Study at 9:00 AM in the Narthex; WELCA Leadership Meeting at 9 AM in the Fireside Room; Women's Coffee at 10 AM in the Narthex.

**Friday, March 27, Office Closed.**

**Saturday, March 28, -**

**Sunday, March 29,** Service of the Word at 9 AM in the Sanctuary.

# CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

*Find out what's going on at Christ Lutheran*

## **With Gratitude**

*Thank you for the honor of being CLC's BOLD Woman of 2026. I feel blessed to be surrounded by many bold women at Christ Lutheran whose servant leadership has set an example both within the walls of CLC, as well as extending beyond to our surrounding communities. Thank you for your **boldness!** Erin*

## **Laundry Love**

We were grateful to serve 16 family units in January and 13 in February. Each gathering was filled with heartfelt thank-yous and conversations as families shared their life stories with us.

We are especially thankful for our dedicated volunteers: Barb Jenneke, Connie Heitz, Jane Larter, Chris Davis, and Cheryl McDougall.

A special thank you to Christ Lutheran for your continued support and partnership.

## **Missions**

The Mission emphasis for March is the McLeod County Food Shelf. During the month of March, every dollar donated will be matched, doubling the impact of your contribution and increasing the organization's purchasing power.

A noisy pail offering will be collected on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Donations will also be accepted at any time throughout the month. If you choose to donate by check, please write "Food Shelf" in the memo line.



The Wheelbarrow emphasis for March will focus on personal care items, including shampoo, soap, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products. These essential items cannot be purchased by the food shelf, and the food shelf has indicated that they are currently among the organization's greatest needs.

We encourage everyone to help us fill the wheelbarrow throughout the month of March.

Thank you for your generous support with these important missions!

## **Bulletin, Newsletter, and Worship Service Deadlines**

In an effort to ensure that worship services plans can be finalized, and that the bulletins and newsletters can be edited and reviewed, in a timely manner, we are posting official deadlines for submission. We thank everyone for helping us make these productions as wonderful as we can!

*Bulletin Announcement Deadline: Wednesdays 12 PM*