

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Fourth Sunday in Lent — Setting X
March 19, 2023 / 10:00 am
The Rev. David Hulse, presiding



Christ Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We extend God's own welcome to all, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other human distinction.

PRELUDE

Prelude
from *Five Bagatelles for Clarinet and Piano*

Gerald Finzi

✘ GATHERING ✘

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✘ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

“Be still, and know that I am God.” During the Prelude worshippers are invited to prepare quietly for worship.

*Stand, as able.

The open font is a powerful symbol of the centrality of baptism for Christians.

**HYMNS
TODAY**

ELW 673
ELW 779
ELW 793
ELW 811

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✕ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

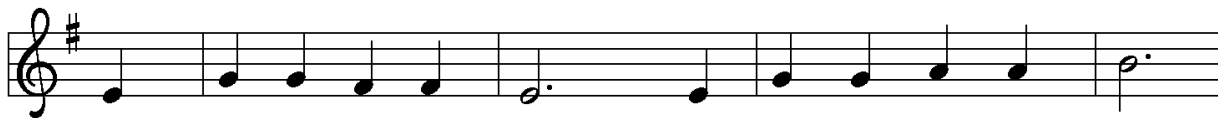
God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

***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.**

***KYRIE**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✧ WORD ✧

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

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

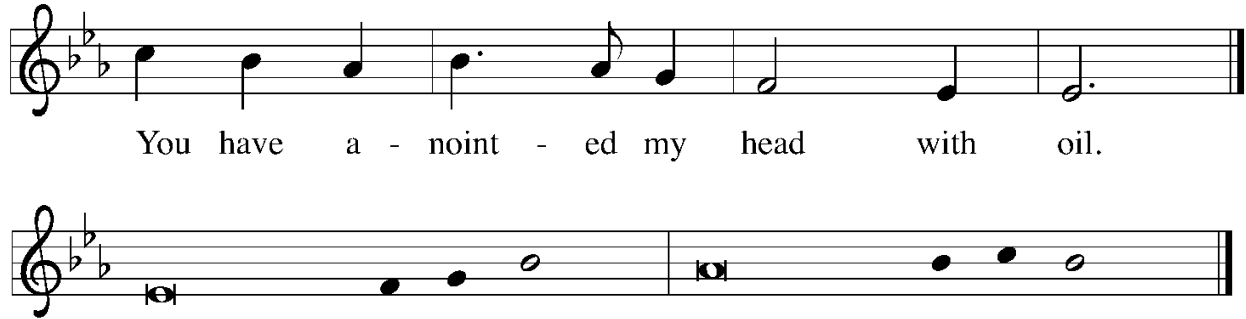
The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”

Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23



¹The Lord¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down¹ in green pastures
and leads me be-¹side still waters.**

³You restore my¹ soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways¹ for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they¹ comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ Lord forever. R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

*GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (*which means Sent*). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind

man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW 779

*NICENE CREED

ELW page 104

We believe in one God,...

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve. We pray for Andrew Heisen, Jim Aberth, Blanca Allen, Anna Anderson, Norman Bolles, Martin Carlson, Kwai Lin Chan, Steven Chin, Brigitte Chisholm, James Clunie, Danny Elson, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Susan Giroux, Charles Graham, Joy Honen, Richard Hurst, Marie Ibbetson, Gayle Jaffe, Susan Kane, Adele Kasinskas, Gloria Kleinfelt, Georgie Klinger, Mary and Earl Kunstman, Laura Lavelle, Chui Yuk Lee, Suxian Lin, David Lincoln, Phillip Liu, Matt M, Arvind Raja, Erica Rich, Shannon Ripp, Alexandru Simovici, Louann Smith, Polly Weston, and Mary Jane Young; we pray for all who contend with addictions, all who struggle with mental illness; all who are serving in the armed forces; all who are first responders, fire fighters, and police; and all who fight COVID-

19 and its lingering effects. Protect and nurture all children. Sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young. Give them your living water always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Hear, O God, the prayers on our lips.

Worshippers are invited to voice their petitions

Hear, O God, the silent prayers of our hearts.

Silence is kept for unspoken prayers

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

✧ MEAL ✧

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Emma Lou Diemer

***OFFERTORY HYMN**

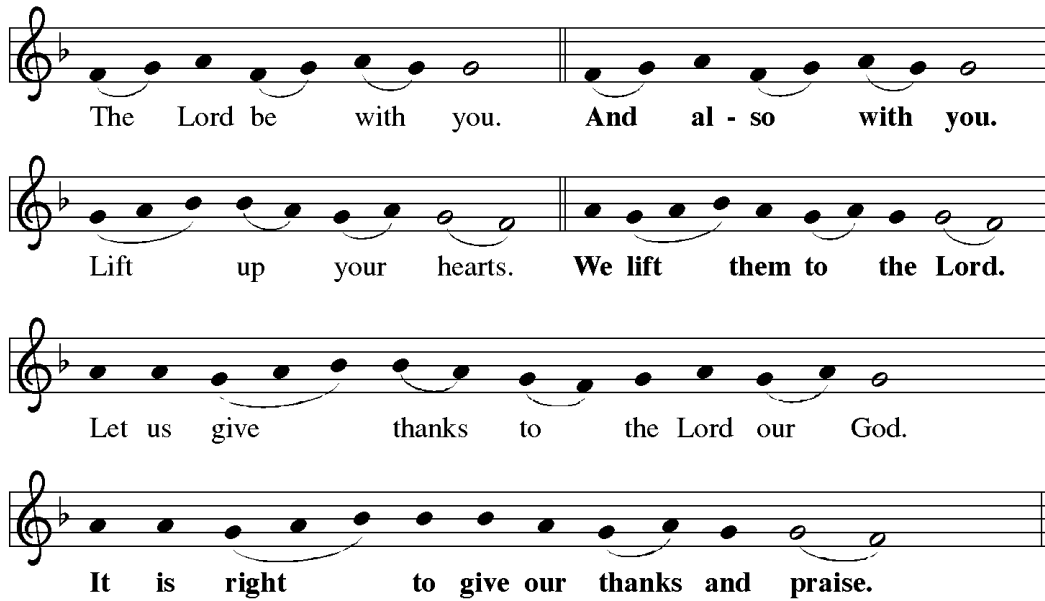
Now Is the Time of Grace

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two measures of music. The first measure is marked with a '1' above it and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second measure is marked with a '2' above it and contains the notes B4, A4, G4, and F#4. Below the first staff, the lyrics are: "Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion." The second staff continues the melody with the notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in the first measure, and B4, A4, G4, and F#4 in the second measure. Below the second staff, the lyrics are: "Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta-tion." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

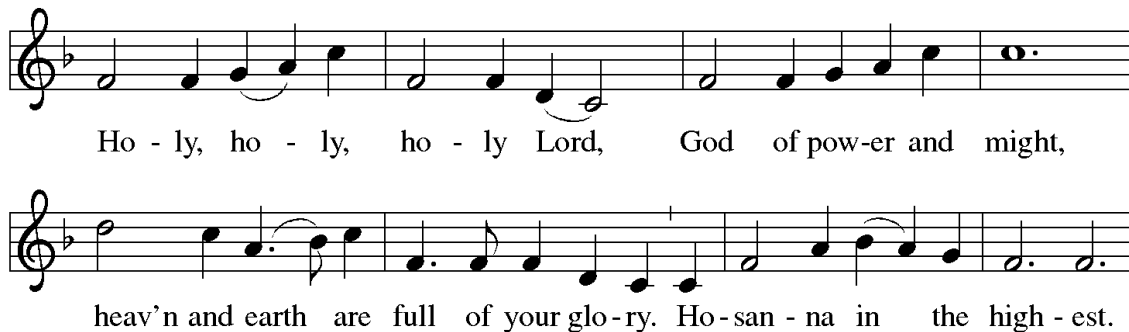
God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues with the preface; the congregation responds:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection... Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit**
Reveal yourself to us...burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

..now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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.

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

Christ Lutheran Church practices Eucharistic hospitality; all baptized Christians who trust in Christ's presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome at the table where he is both host and food. Communicants normally receive pita or a gluten-free wafer in open, cupped palms (sometimes laid one over the other in the shape of the cross). Wine (light colored) or grape juice (red/purple) is offered in an individual glass.

COMMUNION HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

✘ **SENDING** ✘

*BLESSING

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

*SENDING HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

ELW 811

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Fughetta
from *Five Bagatelles for Clarinet and Piano*

Gerald Finzi

Today's Worship Leaders:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Greeters | Martha Cronin and Sandy Smith |
| Assisting Minister | Phil Roberts |
| Reader | Mary Pollard |
| Tellers | Frank Miller and Audrey Colson |
| Altar Guild | Carol Virshbo and Mary Avalos |
| Coffee Hosts | Carol Virshbo |
| Audio Visual Team | Comlanvi Agbodjinou, Alan Avalos, Elinor Holm. Rolf Larson, Peter Miller, Phil Roberts, Ryan Schnepfer, Juliet Seaberg |
| Cantor | Kim Petot |
| Musicians | Andrew Avalos, clarinet; CLC Choir |

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev David Hulse, Interim Pastor

Tom Berryman, Music Director

Gail Weston-Roberts, Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator

Kim Petot, Bell Choir Director

Leaders of the Congregation

Frank Miller, Financial Secretary
Celeste Larson, Social Justice
Phil Roberts, Worship, Music, and the Visual Arts
Carol Virshbo, Professional Leadership
Mary Avalos and Robin Hurst, Family Promise
Cathy Gallagher, Altar Guild
Lisa Chan, Card Ministry
Carol Virshbo, Coffee Hour
John Whitlock, Finance and Property
Kathleen Kirleis, Endowment
George Hall, Stewardship
Diane Stevens, Visitation

Congregation Council

Mary Avalos (2024), President
Edie Lohr (2025), Treasurer
David Ripp (2025), Vice President
Ellen Zagajeski (2025), Secretary
John Whitlock (2025)
Patricia Bianco (2023)
Martha Cronin (2023)
Hannele Saramo-Raja (2023)
Audrey Colson (2023)
Anna Carlson (2024)
Sandy Smith (2024)
Elinor Holm (2024)

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