**3rd Sunday of Easter**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*April 14, 2024*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God’s grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

* **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women’s bathroom.

**WORSHIP THEME**

No other name. The Scriptures teach us that Jesus alone is the way to the Father and our only source of salvation. Without Jesus we are completely lost. However, through the name of Jesus, we have complete forgiveness, sure salvation, and eternal life guaranteed. This great victory is ours through the Means of Grace: the gospel in Word and Sacrament delivers to us the wonderful blessings that Jesus has won.

***The Service of the Word***

*We gather as a congregation to hear God’s Word proclaimed and respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

**HYMN** *Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won***| CW 145**

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

M: Our Savior commanded baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism: Scripture makes plain that we are born in the image of our father Adam and inherit a sinful nature. We would be lost forever without the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He took upon himself the curse of Adam’s sin and by his death on the cross redeemed all people. Through his resurrection he brought eternal life to all those that look to him in faith. In baptism, God unites us with Christ in His death and resurrection. We recall the meaning of baptism for our lives with these words from Luther’s Small Catechism:

**C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus my Savior I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

absolution

M: God, our heavenly Father, has taken away all your sin. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. As his servant, I now forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**: **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C: ♫ God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!**

 **Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood!**

M: Let us pray.

Holy God, mighty Lord, through your stern judgment, the unbelieving world was destroyed by the flood, but according to your great mercy, you saved Noah and his family. You engulfed stubborn Pharaoh and his army in the waters of the Red Sea but led your people through those same waters to safety on dry land. In the waters of the Jordan, your own Son was baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By these signs you foreshadowed the washing that you give us in Holy Baptism.

Holding firmly to your command and promise, we ask that you would look with favor on Orion. Through this water of baptism, drown in him all sin inherited from Adam and any other evil he may do. Set him apart from the unbelieving world, and hold him safe and secure in the holy ark of your Church. Keep him always fervent in spirit and joyful in hope so that he may honor your holy name and at last receive—together with all your people—the promised inheritance of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

M: Orion, by the power of the Word, the Holy Spirit has led you to believe in Christ. Jesus assures you of your salvation through Holy Baptism. I ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

 Do you believe that you were born in sin and therefore eternally lost?

**B: Yes, I believe.**

M: Do you believe in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**B: Yes, I believe.**

M: Do you believe that the Triune God planned and carried out your salvation?

**B: Yes, I believe.**

M: Do you believe that God grants you the forgiveness of sin in Holy Baptism?

**B: Yes, I believe.**

M: Do you wish to be baptized?

**B: Yes, I do.**

 Receive the sign of the cross on the head, and on the heart, to mark you as a redeemed child of God.

 Orion Richard William Koinzan, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

 The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in this baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

**EXHORTATION**

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

 Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who have been baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us to assist in whatever manner possible so that Orion may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: “Yes, as God gives me strength.”

**C: Yes, as God gives me strength.**

 **♫ There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**FIRST LESSON** *Acts 4:8–12*

*The Apostles defend themselves after healing a man in the name of Jesus.*

**8**Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! **9**If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, **10**then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11**Jesus is

“‘the stone you builders rejected,
    which has become the cornerstone.’

**12**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

**PSALM** *Psalm 118, pg. 108*

**SECOND LESSON** *1 John 1:5–2:2*

*In God’s presence there can be no darkness of sin; praise him that he has remove our sins.*

**5**This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6**If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. **7**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

**8**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**2**My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **2**He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** *Luke 24:32*

M: Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M: Our hearts were burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us.

**C: Alleluia!**

**THE GOSPEL** *Luke 24:36–49*

*Jesus appears to his disciples and equips themwith understanding to be his witnesses.*

**6**While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

**37**They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. **38**He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? **39**Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

**40**When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. **41**And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” **42**They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43**and he took it and ate it in their presence.

**44**He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

**45**Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46**He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47**and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things. **49**I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds* **| CW 358**

**SERMON** *Acts 4*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

 **maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

 **The third day he rose again from the dead.**

 **He ascended into heaven**

 **and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

 **From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

 **the holy Christian Church,**

 **the communion of saints,**

 **the forgiveness of sins,**

 **the resurrection of the body,**

 **and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*In response to God’s love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Lord God, in Your presence we find fullness of joy, and by Your right hand, Christ Jesus, You win and deliver peace forevermore. In the midst of this world’s sins and sorrows, give us peace in the knowledge of His salvation and confident hope in the resurrection of the dead.

**C: Sustain our faith so we can declare your praise.**

M: Heavenly Father, by the incarnation of Your Son and the reconciliation of His cross, You have made us Your children and gathered us into Your Holy Church. Sustain the preaching of Your Holy Word and its message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name among us and all the nations of the world.

**C: Allow all your messengers joyfully and faithfully administer your Word and Sacraments.**

M: Give peace, Lord, to our homes and enliven them by Christ’s resurrected life. Let the forgiveness of sins reign among husbands and wives, parents and children. Assure those who live alone that they, too, are Your children, upheld by Your right hand.

**C: May our homes be a testament to your love and goodness.**

M: Almighty God, preserve our nation and its leaders, especially Joseph, our president, and Gavin, our governor. Preserve order and decency in this fallen world by their hands and restrain the sins and deceptions of the wicked.

**C: Allow us to live peaceful lives of godliness as your witnesses.**

M: God of all comfort, You have compassion on those who are afflicted. Remember and have mercy on all those in need of Your healing and deliverance.

*Special intercessions may follow*

M: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

M**:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✙ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Christ Is Our Cornerstone* **| CW 528**

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**13009 N. Elderberry Ct.**

**Lodi, CA 95242**

[www.christlodi.org](http://www.christlodi.org)

209-368-6250

Pastor Tim Leistekow

**WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace

through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities

both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

**Look what Christ is doing!**

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

He sends us out with the gospel

*“Now you are the body of Christ,*

*and each one of you is a part of it.”*

*(1 Corinthians 12:27)*