

Midweek Lenten Worship

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*February 28, 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**

There is no such thing as holy water. The water used in Baptism did not come from a magic fountain or mystical lake. It came out of the tap. Yet, Baptism consists of more than just water. It is water combined with God’s Word. And God’s Word is powerful! God’s Word is the tool the Holy Spirit uses to create and strengthen faith—faith that connects us to Christ’s death and resurrection. Thus, when you witness a baptism, you are witnessing more power being unleashed than you see in a flash of lighting. You are witnessing a power that can take that which is dead and make it alive.

God uses this savior power on us, but not because we deserve it. Because of our sins, we deserve nothing from God but punishment and pain. But our God is merciful. He spares us from the pain we deserve. And our God is gracious. He gives us countless blessings we do not deserve. Today, we marvel at the blessing of Baptism—a great power and greater gift.

Lent: A Time of Catechetical Review

Already at the time of the Reformation, Lutheran churches would hold special services several times each year to review the catechism, a summary of key biblical teachings. We follow this Lutheran tradition this Lent by gathering for special midweek services to meditate on the Bible’s teaching about baptism: There is a connection between our baptism and Christ’s passion. This makes Lent the perfect season to learn anew all that which God’s Word tells us about Baptism. We will see how we were powerfully connected in our baptism to all Christ’s saving work.

**Evening Prayer** |

*Evening Prayer is based on the historic service called “Vespers.” Christians gather at the end of the day to raise their voices in thankful praise and prayer.*

**Opening Responses**

P: O Lord, open my lips.

**C: And my mouth will declare your praise.**

P: Hasten to save me, O God.

**C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

P: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

hymn *Not All the Blood of Beasts|* CW21 398

Opening Prayer

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

**C: Amen.**

P: There is one body and one spirit,

**C: There is one hope to which we were called;**

P: One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**C: One God and Father of us all.**

P: Peace be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Almighty God, in our baptism you have consecrated us to be temples of your Holy Spirit. May we, whom you have counted worthy, nurture this gift of your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith and worship you with upright lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: Do you reject the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**C: I reject them.**

P: Do you repent of the sins that separate you from God and neighbor?

**C: I repent of them.**

P: Do you turn to Christ as Savior and Lord?

**C: I turn to Christ.**

P: Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his T cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ cruciﬁed.

**C: Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

P: Let us pray.

 Almighty God, deliver those you have claimed from the powers of darkness. Restore in us the image of your glory and lead us in the light and obedience of Christ.

**C: Amen.**

Passion reading *Mark 14:27–42*

“You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written:

“‘I will strike the shepherd,  and the sheep will be scattered.’

But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

"Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

P: All we like sheep have gone astray.

**C: And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By His wounds we are healed.**

Sermon Text *Titus 3:4–7*

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

P: All of us who were baptized into Jesus

**C: Were baptized into his death.**

hymn *Through Simple Water, Drawn and Poured|* CW21 685

Sermon

Evening prayers

P: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray O Lord:

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:

**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

P: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:

**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

P: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest i your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Lord’s prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven,**

 **hallowed be your name,**

 **your kingdom come,**

 **your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

 **Give us today our daily bread;**

 **and forgive us our sins,**

 **as we forgive those**

 **who sin against us;**

 **and lead us not into temptation,**

 **but deliver us from evil.**

 **For the kingdom, the power,**

 **and the glory are yours**

 **now and forever. Amen.**

prayer for peaceful night

P: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, sooth the suffering, bless the dying—and all for your love’s sake.

**C: Amen.**

blessing

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C: Amen.**

Evening hymn *All Praise to Thee, My God|* CW21 789



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Pastor Timothy 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)*