

Midweek Lenten Worship

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*March 6, 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**

**The right tool for the job:** Set a beautiful piece of marble before the world’s best sculptor. Nothing comes of it unless he has the right tools. If he tries to fashion something from that rock with bare hands, he is doomed to nothing but frustration, split nails, and bloody fingertips. He needs a hammer and set of chisels. He needs the right tools. If your car is broken down, you cannot fix it with kitchen utensils. If you need heart surgery, pray the surgeon has more than a jigsaw and lock-wrench. To do a job well, you don’t just need tools. You need the right tools.

Jesus has asked his disciples to make disciples. Think of what that means. He is asking us to call people out of unbelief into the light of Christ. How does one raise the spiritually dead? You need the right tool. And that is what Christ has given us in Baptism. It is the right tool for this job that Christ has given to his Church.

Lent: A Time of Catechetical Review

Already at the time of the Reformation, Lutheran churches would hold special services several times each year that 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 *He Stood Before the Court|* CW21 408

Opening Prayer

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

**C: Amen.**

P: The LORD says, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

**C: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.**

P: When you walk through ﬁre, you shall not be burned.”

**C: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

 God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit, given us in our baptism, to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

P: Fellow redeemed, by your baptism you were not only made sons and daughters of our heavenly Father, but also brothers and sisters to each other. Rejoice in the family of believers.

**C: Brothers and sisters, I rejoice with you in the new life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

P: As brothers and sisters, you have a solemn responsibility to one another. Therefore, I ask you, in the presence of God and one another, do you intend: to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Christ, to live according to the will of Christ, walking in all his commands, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth, and especially in our Christian family?

**C: I do, and I ask God to help me.**

P: Do you sincerely intend to love, support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**C: I do, and I ask God to help me.**

P: Let us pray.

 Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of Baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Passion reading *Mark 14:43–65*

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him. Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

“Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” Then everyone deserted him and fled.

A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophesy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

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 *Matthew 28:18–20*

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

P: All of us who were baptized into Jesus

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

hymn *Christ is With Me|* CW21 681

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: Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, fill our minds even as we sleep. Heal every hurt that has been done to us. Heal every hurt that we have caused to others. Remove our anger, bitterness, and division with the closing of this day that we may rest in peace. If there remains any work of reconciliation that we must do, make us aware of those hurts, and give us your Spirit to heal them. Fill us with your love that we might carry out this ministry of reconciliation and forgiveness to which you have called your Church. Hear us for your mercy’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 *Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow|* CW21 794



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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