



4th Sunday in Lent

The Repentant Rejoice in the Father's Forgiveness

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

March 27, 2022

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

God the Father has opened His heart to us in love. While we were "still a long way off," He saw us and "felt compassion" (Luke 15:20). Therefore, He gave His only begotten Son for us, making "him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). By the ministry of reconciliation, He runs to us, embraces us in mercy and clothes us with His glory as beloved sons in Christ Jesus. And so we give thanks unto the Lord our God, who has taken away our sins and turned His anger from us (Is. 12:1). Because He has become our salvation, our strength and our song, we "will trust, and will not be afraid" (Is. 12:2).

SERVICE OF WORD

OPENING HYMN

Jesus Sinners Does Receive | **CW 654**

INVOCATION

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

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

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.

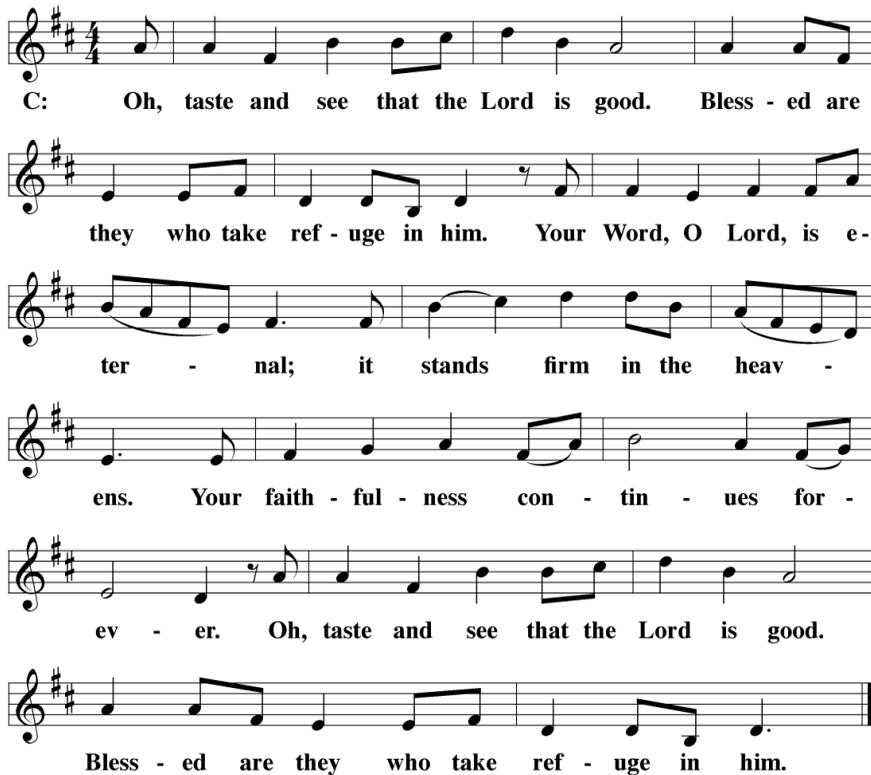
HYMN

Lord, Have Mercy | CW 652

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

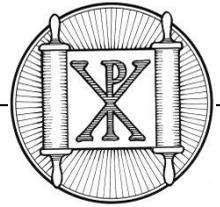
M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Service of the Word

Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

*The **Collect** (also known as the "Prayer of the Day") is a concise prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Many of these prayers have been in use in the church for more than 1,500 years.*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 12:1-6

God's righteous anger has turned to comfort and salvation. Joyful singing and proclamation of His goodness are the results. The Holy One has become our only reliable and true salvation!

On that day you will say:

"I will give thanks to you, LORD,
although you were angry with me.

Your anger has turned away,
and you have comforted me.

²Indeed, God is my salvation;
I will trust him and not be afraid,
for the LORD, the LORD himself,
is my strength and my song.

He has become my salvation."

³You will joyfully draw water
from the springs of salvation,

⁴and on that day you will say,

"Give thanks to the LORD; proclaim his name!

Make his works known among the peoples.

Declare that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things.

Let this be known throughout the earth.

⁶Cry out and sing, citizen of Zion,

for the Holy One of Israel is among you
in his greatness.”

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 32

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone



Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Refrain

You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble.

Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD’s unfailing love surrounds
those who trust in him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The whole idea that we needed God to save us is both irritating and offensive to the unbeliever. He sees it as a foolish message—a bunch of nonsense telling him/her what God has called “sin” and that they’re not good enough with their deeds. Yet, to those who know and feel their sin, and who value the cross as the altar on which the Father sacrificed His eternal Son to pay for our sins, the Gospel is sweet, comforting, uplifting, and endearing. Therefore, we preach Christ-crucified.

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved. ¹⁹ For it is written,

**I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent.**^[a]

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law?^[b] Where is the debater of this age? Hasn’t God made the world’s wisdom foolish? ²¹ For since, in God’s wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached. ²² For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles.^[a] ²⁴ Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, ²⁵ because God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The greatest comfort for the truly repentant heart is full and free forgiveness and acceptance. To the self-righteous this can be foolish and even offensive. But for the loving Father, when the humble reunion happens it is a cause for great celebration!

All the tax collectors and sinners were approaching to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ He also said, “A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate I have coming to me.’ So he distributed the assets^[a] to them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he had and traveled to a distant country, where he squandered his estate in foolish living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he had nothing.^[a] ¹⁵ Then he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to

feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to eat his fill from the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one would give him anything. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger!’ ¹⁸ I’ll get up, go to my father, and say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. ¹⁹ I’m no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired workers.’” ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I’m no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father told his servants, ‘Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let’s celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field; as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he summoned one of the servants, questioning what these things meant. ²⁷ ‘Your brother is here,’ he told him, ‘and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’”

²⁸ “Then he became angry and didn’t want to go in. So his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he replied to his father, ‘Look, I have been slaving many years for you, and I have never disobeyed your orders, yet you never gave me a goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’

³¹ “‘Son,’ he said to him, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

SERMON

God Loved the World so that He Gave | **CW 570**

Isaiah 12:1-6

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.

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18

Lk. 1:35

Lk. 1:34; 2:7

Lk. 23:16

Mt. 27:32-61; Mk 15:21-47

Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42

1 Pet. 3:19

1 Cor. 15:4b

Ac. 2:33-34

Heb. 1:13

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

Mt. 3:16-17

Eph. 5:23

Eph. 4:3-6

Rom. 4:6-8

1 Cor. 15:13-19

1 Th. 4:17

*Upon hearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith that **all Christians profess.** The creeds signify our allegiance to the Christian faith and unite us with over 2,000 years of Christian history. By repeating the creeds weekly, we equip ourselves for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of our faith.*

OFFERING

Of all the gifts God gives to us, forgiveness in Jesus Christ is the most precious. No gift we could give back to God for what he did through his Son Jesus Christ could ever balance the debt we owe for what our Lord accomplished for us on the cross. Yet Jesus says the debt we owe has been canceled, that means that we do not give out of obligation but as an act of worship and thanks to God. The offerings of the members of Christ Lutheran are gathered at this time. Guests need not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

M: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: 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.

Amazing Grace | CW 576

HYMN

PRAYER

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, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on them, and I will bless them."



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Baptismal Waters Cover Me | CW 657



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Pastor Joshua Hanson

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

*“Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.”*

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

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