

**CHRIST**



**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**SUNDAY MARCH 17TH, 2024**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**



**OUR MISSION:** God calls us to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. Christ Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation that welcomes all. May God bless us in Word and Sacrament, music and community in our worship today. The service is complete in this bulletin. The spoken responses are **bolded text**. During your time at church today we recommend that you please wear a mask and practice social distancing, even if you have been vaccinated. Hand sanitizer and masks are available for all who wish to use them.

We acknowledge that our building of worship is built upon the territory of xučyun (Huichin), the unceded land stewarded by the Ohlone people who speak to their Creator and loved ones in the language of Chochenyo.

## **INTRODUCTION**

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

## **GATHERING**

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.  
**Amen.**

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,  
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.  
We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you  
know,**

**forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

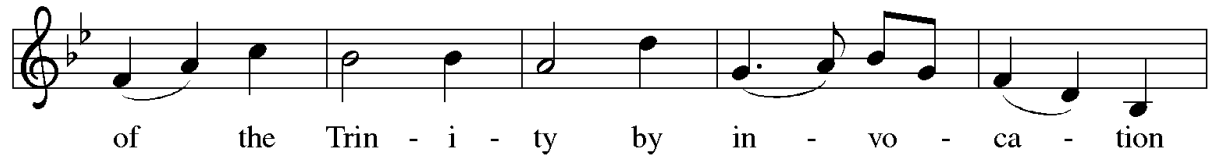
Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life  
through ✚ Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN — LBW 188: *I Bind Unto Myself Today*



I bind un - to my - self to - day the strong name



of the Trin - i - ty by in - vo - ca - tion



of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.




I bind un - to my - self to - day . . the vir - tues



of the star - lit heav - en, the glo - rious sun's life -



giv - ing ray, . . the white - ness of the moon at e - ven, the



flash - ing of the light - ning free, the whirl - ing



wind's tem - pes - tuous shocks, the sta - ble earth, the



deep salt sea, a - round the old e - ter - nal rocks.



Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,  
Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui-et, Christ in dan-ger,

Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re-store me,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and strang-er.

I bind this day to me for-ev-er, by pow'r of  
faith, Christ's in-car-na-tion, his bap-tism in the  
Jor-dan Riv-er, his cross of death for my sal-va-tion, his  
burst-ing from the spic-ed tomb, his rid-ing  
up the heav'n-ly way, his com-ing at the  
day of doom, I bind un-to my-self to-day.

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING—JEREMIAH 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

“Word of God, Word of Life.” **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 51:1-12

The congregation joins in singing the refrains:



*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.  
Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.*

*Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.  
Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.  
Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.*



*Let me hear joy and gladness;  
 that the body you have broken may rejoice.  
 Hide your face from my sins,  
 and blot out all my wickedness.  
 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
 and renew a right spirit within me.*



*Cast me not away from your presence,  
 and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
 and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.*



**SECOND READING— HEBREWS 5:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

“Word of God, Word of Life.” **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
 Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

***♩ Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
 Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me shall not walk in the darkness,  
 but shall have the light of life*

***♩ Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
 Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

## GOSPEL—JOHN 12:20-33

The Gospel According to... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

## SERMON "THE POWER OF LOSING" —REV. DR. MELINDA V. MCLAIN

### HYMN OF THE DAY— ACS 1043: *Spirit, Open My Heart*

*Refrain*

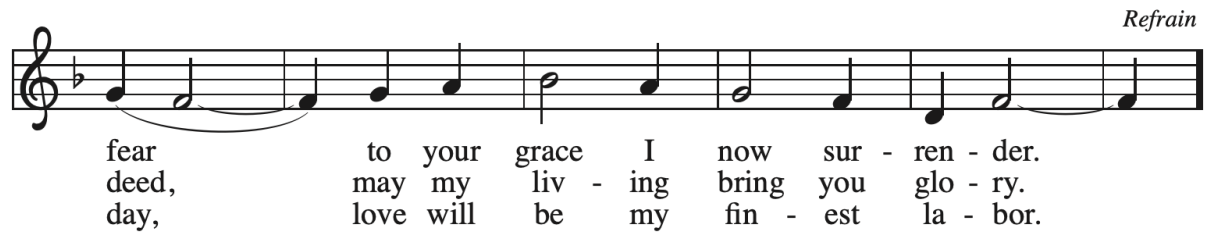


Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of  
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing  
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's  
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to



## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill especially Karen, Julie, Sandy, Fred, Scott and Carol, Marty, George G., Maryann H., Michael H, Evie D., Pastor Sara, Elsa-Jennie and the family and friends of Roberta B., and the family and friends of Shirley Cosgrove. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*What else do the people of God pray for?*

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*Those worshipping online who wish to join in communion are invited to prepare elements at this time.  
For those in person—The white juice in the center rim is non-alcoholic, the red on the outside is wine.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC— MELINDA MCLAIN, SOLOIST "I Would Be True" - John Rutter**

*I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare,*

*I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live,*

*I would be prayerful through each busy moment;  
I would be constantly in touch with God;  
I would be tuned to sense God's slightest whisper;  
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... We praise your name and join in their unending hymn:



# SANCTUS

Ho - ly,  
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav -  
 en 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.

# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER/ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

We pro-claim your death, O Lord, and pro - fess your res - ur -  
 rec - tion un - til you come a - gain, un - til you come a gain.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.



When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we pro-claim your death, O



Lord, un - til you come a - gain, un - til you come a gain.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

### COMMUNION HYMN— ACS 1084: *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

# SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Community Announcements*

## BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN— *Until Love Is Spoken*

Grant us gen - tle-ness in power. Grant us strength to face this hour, to for -  
give, to of-fer grace, and nur-ture peace in ev-ery place. Grant us hope when all seems  
dire. Grant us faith to spark a fire, to fierce-ly burn, to drown the night, and set the  
world a-blaze with light. And when we meet re - sis - tance and our call puts us in  
dan - ger, grant us pa - tience and per - sis-tence to stand up for friend and  
strang-er. Grant us cour - age to be kind. Grant us sin - gle-ness of mind to free the  
world from hate and fear, so on-ly love is spo - ken here And when our path of  
jus - tice leads us to the dread-ful fight, grant us vi - gor, and en - trust us with the  
power to do what's right. Grant us cour - age to be kind. Grant us sin - gle-ness of  
mind to free the world from hate and fear, so on-ly love is spo - ken here

## DISMISSAL

**Go in peace. Share your bread. Thanks be to God.**

During the season of Lent our worship concludes without a postlude, as we await the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord.

## WORSHIP FROM HOME!

Join us and invite friends and neighbors to our Sunday worship service!

**Facebook Livestream:** Every Sunday morning there will be a video livestream of worship available on our church [Facebook page](#).

**Online Bulletins:** Bulletins for each worship service are available online every week. To download a copy, go to the church website and visit our [Bulletins page](#).

**And Don't Forget Your Offering:** Thank you for your continued financial support of Christ Lutheran. It is very much appreciated. Options for giving include bringing offerings in person, mailing checks, or giving electronically with Tithely. For the latter, simply click the "Giving" tab on the church website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Tiekou at 510-290-2125

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maundy Thursday RSVP to Laurie by 3/17. Service @ SOTH March 28th

**March 20th**— Soup Supper/Evening Prayer @ CLC 6:30pm

**April 20th**—Church Clean Up/ Library Closing, please take books home with you

### HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CLC

#### **Sunday**

10:00AM CLC Worship

12:00PM Good Table Worship

7:00 PM Al-Anon

#### **Monday**

9:00-3:00 Senior Center

4:30-5:45 PM Tai Chi

6:00-9:00 PM Irma's De Chico

#### **Tuesday**

4:00-5:00 PM Tai Chi

5:30-6:30 PM Tai Chi

7:00 PM Lady AA Meeting

#### **Wednesday**

5:30-6:30 PM Tai Chi

6:30 PM Soup Supper/Evening Prayer

#### **Thursday**

5:00-6:00 PM Tai Chi

7:00 PM Hand bell Ensemble Practice

#### **Saturday**

6:00 PM Millenium AA Meeting

### **PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:**

### PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**The Ministers:** The Congregation

**Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain

**Minister of Music:** Daniel Alley

**Guitarists:** George Fosselius & Randy Mayer

**Lector:** Dee A.

**Coffee Hour:**

**Usher:**

**Communion Set-up/Clean-up:**

**Worship Assistant:**

**Flowers:** Greens for Lent

Julie D.	Marty S.	Duwayne
Mike and Liz S.	Molly B.	Joan
Chad B.	Scott & Carol F.	Pastor Doris Ng
TJ Baar	Mark M.	Evie D.
The Vale Community	Ted & Jacque E. George G.	Dee Anna
Robin & Wendy	Philip Y.	Elsa-Jennie B.
Sandy Z.	Maryann H.	friends and family of Roberta B.
Carolina S.	Michael H.	
Orlando G.	Heidi	friends and family of Shirley C.
Karen H.	Jan	
Laurie P.	Roz	
Fred	Pat	

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