

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

## March 16, 2025 – Second Sunday in Lent

***Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life***

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### INTRODUCTION

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

### WELCOME ***(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)***

*Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.*

### PRELUDE

*Introit for Lent*

CLC Choir

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives**

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

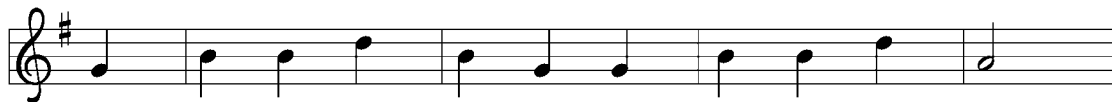
### *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (ELW 834)*



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

### 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.**

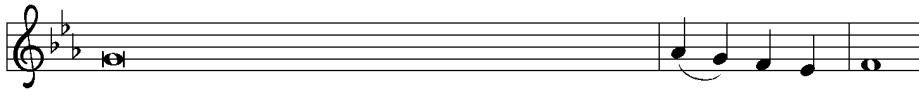
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



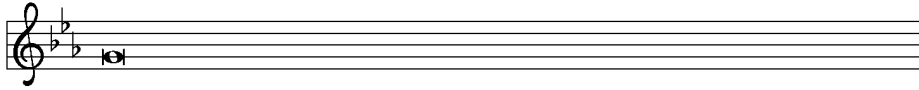
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



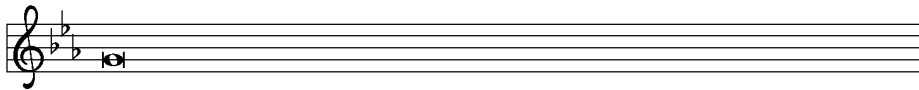
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 27

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

**Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD and be strong.**

**Take heart and wait for the LORD! R**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1**

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

The Son of Man must be <sup>l</sup> lifted up,\* that whoever believes in him may have e- <sup>l</sup> ternal life. (John 3:14-15)

**GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN**

***O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (ELW 319)***



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**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**

In this season of Lent, let us reflect, both on our lives and the lives of all people around the world.

For the people of Ukraine and Russia, Gaza and Israel and all other counties in the midst of wars.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For the nations who welcome refugees, and for those who have become refugees through no fault of their own. And for open hearts by those nations where refugees are not welcomed.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For President Putin and Prime Minister Netanyahu, that their hearts might be turned from stone to hearts that seek peace

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For soldiers who fight battles and shed blood and die while men in suits far away sit behind desks and scheme, neither understanding nor caring about the human cost

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For businesses who profit off of war, that they may be radically reoriented towards doing the public good.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For oligarchs and billionaires who pull strings and make their vast fortunes off of the sweat and labor of so many others,

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For creation that has to suffer the consequences of human greed and ego.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For the peacemakers whose calling seems impossible.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For the religious leaders in the midst of war who proclaim a message of peace,

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

For all who we lift up to you, the sick, those who have died and those who are grieving....  
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**  
God, fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit, sustain us with your power and strengthen our work  
for justice and peace in this world you have given us.

**AMEN**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church  
app!

**OFFERTORY**

*If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments*

**CLC Choir**

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**OFFERING 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.**



## DIALOGUE

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.**

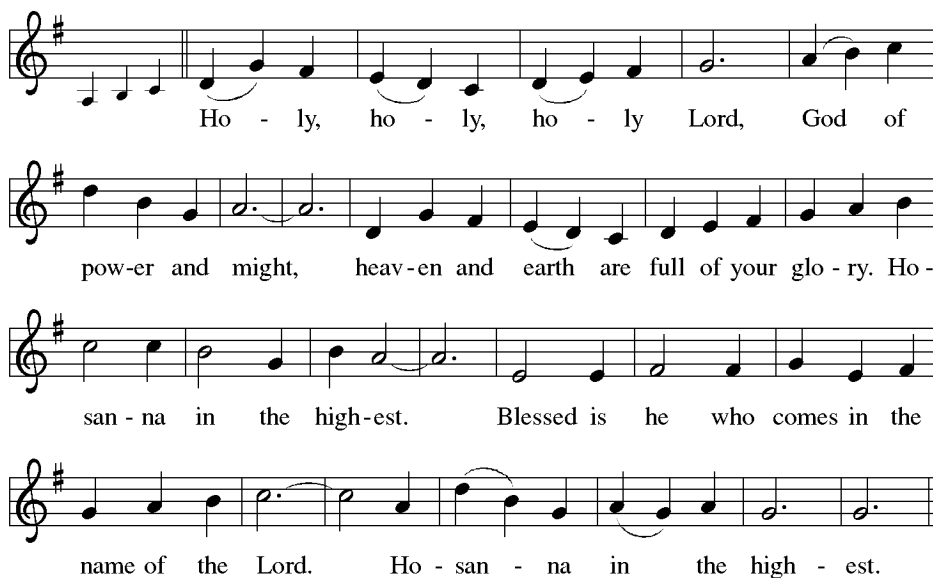
## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,

and provided them water from the rock.  
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.  
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **COMMUNION**

*(All are invited to the Lord's table. To receive communion come forward at the direction of the ushers and take a place at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel as you wish. You will first receive the bread and then may choose to receive either red wine or white grape juice by small glass, or by sipping wine from the chalice. If you choose a small glass you will place it in the empty tray carried by the acolyte. After receiving the bread and wine you will return to your seat. Tell the communion server if you need gluten free bread.)*

## **PRAAYER 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.**

## **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 SONG****God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705)**

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969  
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERVING TODAY:** *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Asst/Lector: Stephen Chikosky; Live Stream: Kay Cleland; Time with Children: Puppets!; Ushers: Wanda Weinberg, JoAnn Ball; Greeter: Mark Sunderman; Acolyte: Rachel; Tray Server: John Molinaro*