



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev’ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert’s burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.
- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.

Stand

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Absolution

- P** We stand in the promises we hear in Ephesians 5:
- C** **Once we were darkness, but now we are light in the Lord! We are children of light.**
- P** This is the truth about you. Our Lord Jesus has made you God's child forever.
- C** **This is the truth about me. I am light in the Lord. I am a child of light.**
- P** Yet, we also acknowledge that we are sinners. Jesus tells the Pharisees,
- C** **"If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."**
- P** We acknowledge our blindness and expose our darkness before God, so that the light of Jesus' forgiving love may shine upon us and give us life.
- C** **Father, wake us from spiritual sleep. Raise us from spiritual death. Shine your light to drive out darkness.**

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

- P** "Wake up, sleeper! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!" (Eph. 5:14). Jesus opens our eyes to see his light and trust that he has the power to turn dead sinners into living saints. In the stead and by the command of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus asked the man born blind the question I now ask you: Do you believe in the Son of Man, and his power to truly make you God's own light?
- C** **Lord, I believe. I once was in darkness, but I am light in the Lord. I am a forgiven child of light. This is the truth about me.**
- P** This is most certainly true. Now, in that truth, worship your gracious Father, your brother Jesus, and the Spirit who lives in you and makes you Holy.

Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

² But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

⁴ Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

⁵ Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.

Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”
A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse for Lent

P Return to the Lord, your God,
C for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in
steadfast love.

Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.
⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”
But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”
¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.
¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”
¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him.
“I don’t know,” he said.
¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.
¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”
¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”
But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.
¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”
The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

P This is the Gospel of our Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Church of God, Elect and Glorious

LSB 646 (tune of 686)

1 **Church of God, elect and glorious,
Holy nation, chosen race;
Called as God's own special people,
Royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of your calling,**

Show to all his mighty deeds;
Tell of love that knows no limits,
Grace that meets all human needs.

- 2 God has called you out of darkness
Into his most marv'ulous light;
Brought his truth to life within you,
Turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
That God's name is glorified
And all find fresh hope and purpose
In Christ Jesus crucified.
- 3 Once you were an alien people,
Strangers to God's heart of love;
But he brought you home in mercy,
Citizens of heav'n above.
Let His love flow out to others,
Let them feel a Father's care;
That they too may know his welcome
And His countless blessings share.
- 4 Church of God, elect and holy,
Be the people he intends;
Strong in faith and swift to answer
Each command your Master sends:
Royal priests, fulfill your calling
Through your sacrifice and prayer;
Give your lives in joyful service—
Sing his praise, his love declare.

Homily

Stand

Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Prayers of the Church

Presentation of the Offering

Please sign the Friendship Register located on each pew and pass it to others seated with you so that we may have a record of all those who are worshiping and receiving communion with us today.

Stand

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Praise Band

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory
Holy is the Lord.

The Words of Our Lord

Lamb of God

LSB 550

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But you have sent him from your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to your side
To be led by your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us your body and blood to eat and to drink, you lead us to remember and confess your holy cross and passion, your blessed death, your rest in the tomb, your resurrection from the dead, your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Sit

Distribution

We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith.

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit.

Once Again

Choir

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Praise Band

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

Praise Band

Dismissal

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Christ the Eternal Lord

LSB 829

- 1 **Christ the eternal Lord,**
Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
On all who name your name;
With thankfulness and praise
We stand before your throne,
Intent to serve you all our days
And make your glory known.

- 2 **Christ the unchanging Word**
To ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard
Set forth on Scripture's page;
Transform our thought and mind,
Enlighten all who read,
Within your Word by faith to find
The bread of life indeed.

- 3 **Christ the redeeming Son,**
Who shares our human birth,
And by his death salvation won
For ev'ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray,
To tell your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today
And follow him as Lord.

- 4 **Christ the unfading Light**
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth you give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, your life to live,
Till earth's brief journey ends.

5 Christ the ascended King
Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing,
Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past
Your voice from heaven's throne
Shall call your children home at last
To know as we are known.

Announcements

Sending

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Serving in worship today

March 19, 2023

Pastor:

Jason Neel

Elder:

Phil Hagel
Jeff Williams

Reader:

Karine Platt

Usher:

Mike Voegle

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Owen Smith 3/24.

Celebrating Baptism: Natalie Hofman 3/19, Bridget Smith 3/21, Marlys Lindeman 3/21, Anna Brynteson 3/22, and Ryan O’Keeffe 3/22.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	6:00 p.m.	Apocrypha Study
Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	Congregational Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Service 4
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Saturday	12:00 p.m.	Private Party
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Apocrypha Study

Notes of Information:

March Book of The Month: *The Gates of Zion* by Bodie and Brock Thoene (First of five books in The Zion Chronicles series; Historical fiction, appropriate for teens and adults)

It's November 1947. The British Mandate of Palestine is carved into Arab and Jewish states and Israel is in constant upheaval. Politicians promise peace, but those who remember the prophecies know the truth. Has God forgotten his promises to the Jewish nation? An American photojournalist documenting the struggles in the streets of Jerusalem snaps photographs of ancient scrolls, unaware she has entered a world-shaking conflict. Filled with intrigue, danger, and suspense, this book is a real page turner! You'll want to read the entire series!

Come and browse the library for this and many other faith-based novels, biographies, Bible studies, and books on Christian living.

Soup Supper: Starting on Wednesday February 28th, we will be having soup supper before Lenten Worship Service. Please join us for supper before worship.

Monthly 1% Mission Outreach: As God's Stewards, we are called to serve. A great way to do this is to apply for the Monthly 1% Mission Outreach offering. Simply fill out a request form, state your outreach ministry, and how the funds will be used. Then return your request to the Stewardship Board. Some past activities have included homeless kits, backpacks for World Relief, diaper kits, shopping for food shelf items, and holiday baskets for families. Be creative! Our Lord will use the talents and gifts He has given you to bless others.

SOC Book Club: Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet on the following dates In the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. to review the below listed books. All are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please reach out to Joan Mager at 763-434-9652.

March 27 – The Longest Ride by Nicholas Sparks

LWML Byte *Strengthening the Lutheran Mission to Kuna, Idaho-Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church — \$100,000*

Kuna, Idaho, is listed as the seventh most rapidly growing urban/suburban area in the United States and is located near Boise and Meridian, Idaho. A new church has been planted in Kuna and Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church, Boise, is its mother congregation. The congregation wants to build their own sanctuary and other facilities from which to conduct growing congregational activities, but they are first in need of a parcel of land. The grant funds will assist in the purchase. Please pray for and support this LWML Mission Grant. NEXT SUNDAY Mission Mites will be collected at the table in the Narthex.

Nursery: The nursery is open, and the sound is working. If you have a restless child, please feel free to use this space.

Sermons and bulletins posted online: Audio and video recordings of worship sermons and digital bulletins are posted weekly. Bulletins and past sermons can be found at www.spiritofchristhamlake.org

Offerings via Give+: Online giving is easy to do, one-time gifts and recurring donations are accepted. Visit the link at soclc.org to sign up or learn more.

Average Monthly Offering	\$5810
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	<i>\$6662</i>

Readings for next week:

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org

Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people, proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

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