





## 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!

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March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

### Welcome

#### *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

*LSB 915*

- 1 Today your mercy calls us  
To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
And make us clean today.
- 2 Today your gate is open,  
And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father’s welcome  
And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
A present joy be giv’n,  
A future grace be promised,  
A glorious crown in heav’n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us;  
His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
Around the heav’nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,

It is our Father's home.

- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.

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

### Invocation

- P** We begin our worship in the name of the Father, of the †  
Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Confession and Absolution

- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.  
**P** If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.  
**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as his people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking his grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

- P** Almighty God,

**C** Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Sharing of the Peace

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

**P** We share Christ's peace with one another.

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).*

## Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

*Sit*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 55:1-9*

“Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;

and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.

<sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread,

and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and you will delight in the richest of fare.  
<sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me;  
listen, that you may live.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.  
<sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a ruler and commander of the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations you do not know will come running to you,  
because of the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendor.”  
<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.  
<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.  
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.  
<sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,”  
declares the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup> “As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
**A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*I Corinthians 10:1-13*

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup> They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup> They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup> and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters, as some of them were as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” <sup>8</sup> We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup> We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup> And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

<sup>11</sup> These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Lenten Response

*LSB 173*

**P** Return to the Lord, Your God,

**C** For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 13:1-9*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the thirteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For

three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?"

<sup>8</sup>“Sir,” the man replied, “leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.””

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*

***Lord Jesus, Think on Me***

*LSB 610*

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me  
And purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free  
And make me pure within.**
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
By anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me your loving servant be  
And taste your promised rest.**
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me  
Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery,  
O be my health and life!**
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me  
Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity  
Point out your chosen way.**
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me  
That, when this life is past,  
I may the\_ternal brightness see  
And share Your joy at last.**

**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.

# Prayers of the Church

## Presentation of the Offering

*Stand*

### Preface

*LSB 208*

**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.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings you so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for your boundless love shown to us when you sent your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on him our sin, giving him into death that we might not die eternally. Because he is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

### *Sanctus*

*LSB 208*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of  
your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## The Words of Our Lord

### Lord's Prayer

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 210*

**G** O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*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. If you do not confess the understanding of the Christian Faith as expressed by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, you may still come to the altar to receive a blessing. Please fold your hands to indicate that you will not be receiving the sacrament.*

## **How Deep the Father's Love for Us**

*Bell Choir*

## **Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty**

*ELW 777*

1 "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;  
Drink the water I will give.  
If you knew what gift I offer,  
You would come to me and live."

*Ref Jesus, ever flowing fountain,  
Give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer*

*There is joy no tongue can tell.*

- 2    **“Come to me, all trav’lers weary;  
Come that I may give you rest.  
Drink the cup of life I offer;  
At this table be my guest.” *Refrain***
- 3    **“Come to me, believers burdened;  
Find refreshment in this place.  
Come, receive the gift I offer,  
Turn to me and seek my face.” *Refrain***
- 4    **“Come to me, repentant sinners;  
Leave behind your guilt and shame.  
Come and know divine compassion,  
Turn to me, I call your name.” *Refrain***
- 5    **“Come to me, distressed and needy;  
I would be your trusted friend.  
Come and seek the gift I offer,  
Come, your open hands extend.” *Refrain***
- 6    **“Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
Lonely ways no longer roam.  
Come and take the gift I offer,  
Let me make in you my home.” *Refrain***

***Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face***

*LSB 631 (tune 917)*

- 1    **Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;  
      Here would I touch and handle things unseen;  
Here grasp with firmer hand the\_ eternal grace,  
      And all my weariness upon thee lean.**
- 2    **Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
      Here drink with thee the royal wine of heav’n;  
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
      Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv’n.**
- 3    **This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
      This is the heav’nly table spread for me;**

Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong  
The brief bright hour of fellowship with thee.

- 4 I have no help but thine; nor do I need  
Another arm but thine to lean upon.  
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;  
My strength is in thy might, thy might alone.
- 5 Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;  
Mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood;  
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:  
Thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord my God.
- 6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;  
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;  
The bread and wine remove, but thou art here;  
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.
- 7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

*O Living Bread from Heaven*

*LSB 642 (tune 527)*

- 1 O living Bread from heaven,  
How well you feed your guest!  
The gifts that you have given  
Have filled my heart with rest.  
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,  
Oh, cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing,  
With praises overflows.
- 2 My Lord, you here have led me  
To this most holy place  
And with yourself have fed me  
The treasures of your grace;  
For You have freely given  
What earth could never buy,  
The bread of life from heaven,

That now I shall not die.

- 3 You gave me all I wanted;  
This food can death destroy.  
And you have freely granted  
The cup of endless joy.  
My Lord, I do not merit  
The favor you have shown,  
And all my soul and spirit  
Bow down before your throne.
- 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened  
With heav'nly food, while here  
My course on earth is lengthened,  
To serve with holy fear.  
And when you call my spirit  
To leave this world below,  
I enter, through your merit,  
Where joys unmingled flow.

*O Christ, Our Hope*

*ELW 604*

- 1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,  
Creation's mighty Lord,  
Redeemer of the fallen world,  
By holy love outpoured:
- 2 How vast your mercy to accept  
The burden of our sin  
And bow your head in cruel death  
To make us clean within.
- 3 But now the bonds of death are burst,  
The ransom has been paid;  
You now ascend the Father's throne  
In robes of light arrayed.
- 4 O let your mighty love prevail  
To purge us of our pride  
That we may stand before your throne  
By mercy purified.

**5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,  
Our future great reward;  
Our only glory, may it be  
To glory in the Lord!**

*Stand*

### **Post Communion Collect**

**P** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of his coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **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.

### ***Restore in Us, O God***

*ELW 328 (tune LSB 975)*

- 1 Restore in us, O God,  
The splendor of your love;  
Renew your image in our hearts,  
And all our sins remove.**
- 2 O Spirit, wake in us  
The wonder of your pow'r;  
From fruitless fear unfurl our lives  
Like spring-time bud and flow'r.**
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share  
The fullness of your joy;  
Baptize us in the risen life**

**That death cannot destroy.**

- 4 Three-personed God, fulfill  
The promise of your grace,  
That we, when all our searching ends,  
May see you face to face.**

**Announcements**

**Sending**

# Serving in worship today

March 23, 2025

## **Pastor**

Jason Neel

## **Acolyte**

Eden Miller

## **Usher**

Sue Anderson

## **Elders**

Phil Marquardt  
Wayne Chambard

## **Reader**

Robert Pajak

## **In our prayers**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Alex Hansen 3/24, Ashley Hansen 3/24,  
Jan Berg 3/26 and Kati Schoenbauer 3/28.

### **This Week at a Glance**

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Midweek 3
Thursday	7:45 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour

## Notes of Information

**Lenten Midweek Services:** Please join us for our Lenten Midweek Worship services! Our theme is an exploration of the meaning of the sign hanging above the crucified Christ in our sanctuary. The sign says, "Our Sin." Sin distorts our lives and our perception of what is good in life. Our sin, though, becomes the avenue by which Christ reveals God's grace, working forgiveness, faith, and restoration. Each week we'll look at Christ's work on the cross from a new angle. Please worship with us at 6:45 each Wednesday evening!

**AED Training:** There will be AED training on Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am. Allina heath will be presenting a training on how to use the AED, CPR and other ways for us to assist with first aid before the professionals arrive. If you are interested in attending this training, please sign up in the Narthex.

**Annual Plant Sale with Twist:** The youth's annual plant sale will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will be combining the plant sale with a rummage sale, if you have clean, working items to donate to our sale please bring them in. Items can be left in the youth room or Laura's office. We will not be accepting electronics or furniture. If you have any questions, please contact Larua Marquardt or Jeff Fey.

**Prayer Opportunity:** An Elder will be available weekly at the end of service at the Communion Rail for personal prayer support. If privacy is requested that will be accommodated.

**Notes of Gratitude:** The Stewardship Board received a letter of thanks from *Trinity First Lutheran School* for SOC's donation of \$690.84. Trinity First is in Minneapolis and serves as a high-quality educational center for children, their families, and the local community. The school strives to support and encourage learners to become productive citizens of our country here on earth, and ultimately fellow citizens of Heaven. *Concordia Seminary* in St. Louis also sent a letter of appreciation for our recent gift of \$382.63. The funds will be used to equip future pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders to share the love of Jesus

with congregations and communities. (You can find the full letters on the bulletin board in the Narthex.)

**Easter Flowers:** Easter is approaching and that means it's time to order flowers to beautify our sanctuary. The following flowers can be ordered: Pink Hydrangea - \$16.50; Easter Lily - \$9.00; or Tulips (purple, red or yellow) - \$9.00. Envelopes can be found on the table in the narthex. Please place them in Karen Zimmerman's mailbox. All orders are due by March 30th. Checks can be made out to Spirit of Christ Altar Guild. Contact Karen Zimmerman if you have any questions.

**LWML Byte:** Mercy Holistic Ministry | \$100,000  
LWML Mission Grant #30, Showering Love on the Least of These for \$100,000 for the Mercy Holistic Ministry (MHM) in Sacramento, California, will increase the frequency of mobile hot shower services and haircuts from two to three days per week and serve 2,000 more people annually. A mobile clothing trailer will be purchased and operated to give away clean clothing and hygiene kits. God's Word will be shared by distributing 10 to 15 Bibles and prayer books every week. In the last several years the homeless population in Sacramento has about doubled to 10,000 people. These services will enhance the feeling of worth, provide hope in Jesus, and give counseling to aid the homeless in applying for jobs or securing an apartment. All people are created in God's image, loved by God in Jesus Christ, and need to experience that love every day in a multitude of ways.

To learn more, visit [www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-30](http://www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-30) or ask Linda

**First Communion Class:** If you are interested in having your children take their first communion on Maundy Thursday, please see Pastor Jason.

**Soup Supper:** Soup supper will be held on Wednesday at 6 p.m. before midweek Lenten service. Come and break bread with one another before heading into worship.

**Book Club:** Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. Dates and books are:

- March 24 -*The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- April 28 – *The Last Letter* by Rebecca Yarros
- May 27 (Tuesday) – *Bluebird* by Sharon Cameron

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager

**Stewardship Note:** “*Blessed is he who has regard for the weak...*” ( *Psalm 41:1*)

**NACE:** North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf is currently in need of boxed sides, including stuffing, pasta and potatoes. They are no longer taking summer clothing items but are looking for new socks and underwear in all sizes and gently used fall/winter children’s clothing. Thank you for your donations. For more information, reach out to Toni Peterson.

Average Weekly Offering	\$8084
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	<i>\$7271</i>

**Next Week’s Readings**

**Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3,11b-32**

## Upcoming Fellowship Opportunities

April 25<sup>th</sup>- Game Night- Bring a snack and a game to share.

*“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another”- Hebrews 10:25-26*

**If you have a fun idea for a fellowship event please let Laura Marquardt, Renee Chambard or Gary Burmeister know and we help you make it happen!**



**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
[www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://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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Ministers:	All Members
Music Director John Peterson:	<a href="mailto:carsinger@aol.com">carsinger@aol.com</a>
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