





## 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 30, 2025

Fourth 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** St. Paul tells us, "one died for all, and therefore all died."  
**C** "He died for all, that those who live should no longer live  
for themselves but for him who died for them and was  
raised again." (2 Cor. 5:14b-15)  
**P** We confess before God that we have lived for ourselves.  
**C** We have taken charge of our own lives. We have  
prioritized our own desires and ambitions. We have  
neglected to care for our brothers and sisters. We have  
been impatient, hard-hearted, and unkind.  
**P** We cling to your promise that you put our old nature to death  
and raise us to new life.  
**C** Have mercy on us, Father. Bring forth your new creation  
in Christ.

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

- P** "If anyone is in Christ: New Creation! The old has gone, the

new is here.” (2 Cor. 5:17) God began this work in you in Holy Baptism and will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord. Until that day, God is committed to daily burying your sin and raising up Jesus in you. In the stead and by the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go forth and experience joy as you live out your new life in Christ, empowered by the Spirit and confident in God’s gracious blessing.

**C Amen! Thanks be to God!**

## 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** God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

*Joshua 5:9-12*

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup> On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.<sup>11</sup> The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**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 15:1-3, 11b-32*

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

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

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable:

11 “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

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

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

*Sit*

### *As Rebels, Lord Who Foolishly Have Wandered*

*LSB 612 (tune 752)*

- 1 As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered  
Far from your love—unfed, unclean, unclothed—  
Dare we recall your wealth so rashly squandered,  
Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?  
Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,  
Speech, that within your warm embrace soon dies;
- 2 All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing  
As tears of joy and welcome fill your eyes.  
A feast of love for us you are preparing;  
We who were lost, you give an honored place!  
“Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more despairing—  
Here taste again the treasures of My grace.”

### **Homily**

*Stand*

### **Nicene Creed**

**G** 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**

*Stand*

## **Preface**

**P** The Lord be with you.

*LSB 208*

- 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*

*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*

- C** 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.*

***Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling***

*ELW 608*

**1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
Calling, for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
Watching for you and for me.**

*Ref "Come home, come home!  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
Calling, "O sinner, come home."*

**2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
Pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
Mercies for you and for me? *Refrain***

**3 Oh, for the wonderful love he had promised,  
Promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
Pardon for you and for me. *Refrain***

***Just as I Am without One Plea***

*LSB 570*

**1 Just as I am, without one plea  
But that thy blood was shed for me  
And that thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**2 Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,**

Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*O Lord, We Praise Thee*

*LSB 617(tune 789)*

1 O Lord, we praise thee, bless and adore thee.  
Lord in thanksgiving we bow before thee.  
Thou with thy body and blood did nourish  
Our weak souls flourish:  
Have mercy, Lord!

2 Thy holy body into death given,  
Life to win for us, no greater love.  
This to thee bind us, your feast remind us,  
Salvation gave us,  
Have mercy, Lord!

3 May God bestow us his grace and favor  
Following Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
And live together in love and union  
This blest Communion!  
Have mercy, Lord!

4 Let not thy Spirit ever forsake us;  
Grant us your mind and make us your own.  
Guide us your church in unity and peace.

Teach us to live in  
Your mercy, Lord!

*I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table*

LSB 618

- 1 I come, O Savior, to thy table,  
For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able  
To satisfy and make me whole:  
*ref Lord, may thy body and thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!*
- 2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning  
That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to thee in faith are turning;  
So I, a sinner, come to thee. *Refrain*
- 3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,  
Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet thou thy lamb wilt banish never,  
For thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*
- 4 Weary am I and heavy laden;  
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;  
Receive me graciously and gladden  
My heart, for I am now thy guest. *Refrain*
- 5 What higher gift can we inherit?  
It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit,  
The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

*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.

## *O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True*

*ELW 675*

- 1 **O Christ, our light, O radiance true,  
Shine forth on those estranged from you,  
And bring them to your home again,  
Where their delight shall never end.**
- 2 **Fill with the radiance of your grace  
The wand'ers lost in error's maze.  
Set free all those whose hearts and minds  
Some deep delusion haunts and binds.**
- 3 **Lord, open all reluctant ears  
And take away the needless fears  
Of those who tremble to express  
The faith their inmost hearts confess.**
- 4 **Lord, let your mercy's gentle ray  
Shine down on others strayed away.  
To those in conscience wounded sore  
Show heaven's waiting, open door.**
- 5 **Make theirs with ours a single voice  
Uplifted, ever to rejoice  
With wond'ring gratitude and praise to you,  
O Lord, for boundless grace.**

## **Announcements**

**Sending**

## **Serving in worship today**

March 23, 2025

### **Pastor**

Jason Neel

### **Acolyte**

Ryan Weinhold

### **Usher**

Sandy Elhardt

### **Elders**

Wayne Chambard

Carl Schwanbeck

### **Reader**

Mike Voegele

## **In our prayers**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Renee Roessler 4/1, Abby Schoenbauer 4/2, Jason Neel 4/2, Jennifer Williams 4/3, and Dyllon Degler 4/4.

**Celebrating Baptism:** Oliver Welle 4/1.

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

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	AED Training
	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Midweek 4
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 health 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: Notes of Gratitude:** The Stewardship Board received a letter of thanks from *Hope 4 Youth* for our February donation of \$264.89. *Hope 4 Youth* is a nonprofit organization in Anoka County that helps young people, ages 16 to 24, who are experiencing homelessness in the northern Twin Cities metro area. *Concordia Seminary* also sent a letter of thanks for our recent gift of \$345.42 in support of the *Adopt-A-Student* program. Our generosity is making a difference and is greatly appreciated.

**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 **TODAY**. Checks can be made out to Spirit of Christ Altar Guild. Contact Karen Zimmerman if you have any questions.

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

- April 28 – *The Last Letter* by Rebecca Yarros
- May 27 (Tuesday) – *Bluebird* by Sharon Cameron

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager

**NACE:** North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf is currently in need canned fruit, canned tuna, peanut butter and beans of all types. Thank you for your donations. For more information, reach out to Toni Peterson.

Average Weekly Offering	\$7350
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$7271

**Next Week's Readings**  
**Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8**

## 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  
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[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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