

*This is Love:
not that we loved
God, but that he
loved us and sent his
son as an atoning
sacrifice for our sin.*

1 John 4:10





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!

Lenten Midweek Worship

April 9, 2025

Invocation and Verse

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us,

C And sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins

(1 John 4:10)

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

The Lamb

LSB 547

1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where’s the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!

ref Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!

2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav’n his praise to sing. *Refrain*

3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, his will
On our behalf the Law to fill. *Refrain*

- 4 He sighs, he dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me his own righteousness. *Refrain*
- 5 He rose, he rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to him belong. *Refrain*

Opening Versicles

- P** God of all mercy and consolation,
C Come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- C** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.
- P** The people confess:
C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
C Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

- ¹³ See, my servant will act wisely;
he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.
- ¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him—
his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being
and his form marred beyond human likeness—
- ¹⁵ so he will sprinkle many nations,
and kings will shut their mouths because of him.
- For what they were not told, they will see,
and what they have not heard, they will understand.
- ¹ Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
- ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
- ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.
- ⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
- ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
- ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
- ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
- ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away.

Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

L This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us,

C **And sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins**
(1 John 4:10)

Prayer of Martin Luther

P Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

C **My lord, fill it.**

P I am weak in faith;

C **Strengthen me.**

P I am cold in love;

C **Warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.**

P I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

C **O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.**

P In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor;

C **You are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.**

P I am a sinner;

C **You are upright.**

P With me, there is an abundance of sin;

C **In you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:1-14

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,

but a body you prepared for me;

⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—

I have come to do your will, my God.’”

⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

L This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us,

C **And sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

(1 John 4:10)

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 1:29-31, 34-36

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

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

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel. ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

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C **And sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

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Sit

Not All the Blood of Beasts

LSB 431

- 1 Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.
- 2 But Christ, the heav’nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.
- 3 My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.
- 4 My soul looks back to see
The burden thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.
- 5 Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;

**We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing his bleeding love.**

Homily

Creed

P We believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. What does this mean?

C **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death, that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

Invitation to Prayer

P We do not know how to pray as we ought, Paul says. (*Romans 8:26*) Our prayers easily become routine and meaningless.

C **We worry and doubt.**

P We wonder if God really listens.

C **We trust our own sincerity.**

P We try to impress God with our dedication.

C **We cannot pray as we should.**

P But God has said that we may pray, God has commanded us to pray, God has taught us to pray, and God himself prays for us. The Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words, Paul says. (*Romans 8:26*)

C **So we pray confidently, certain that our loving Father hears us and promises to dwell with us. We pray the words our Lord Jesus taught us:**

Lord's Prayer

Evening Prayer

C I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Christ Sits at God's Right Hand

LSB 564 v 1, 3-5

- 1 Christ sits at God's right hand,
His saving work complete,
To reign till ev'ry foe will lie
Beneath his feet—
All that the Father planned,
The Son sought to fulfill,
When first he said, "Lord, here am I
To do your will."
- 3 Christ's altar was the tree,
Where on the world's behalf
He shed a blood, unlike the blood
Of goat or calf,
To seal God's guarantee
Of grace that cannot fail;
With blood he entered for our good
Behind the veil.
- 4 What costly sacrifice
To cover human sin!
Who but Christ Jesus had the right
To enter in?
His blood, that sprinkled price,
So we might be assured
That our inheritance in light
Has been secured.
- 5 Then let us now draw near,
Washed in that precious flood

**And enter the Most Holy Place
By Jesus' blood.
From hearts that are sincere,
Let tongues our hope profess,
And trust anew God's faithful grace
That we confess.**

Verse

- P** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us,
C **And sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**
(1 John 4:10)

Benediction



SPiRiT of CHRiST
Lutheran Church

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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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