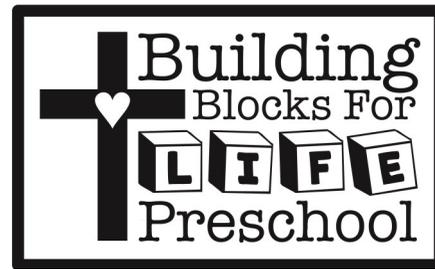


Sunday,
February 9,
2020





“SHARING, SHOWING, and KNOWING CHRIST”

WELCOME TO CHRIST

We are so glad that you joined us to worship our Lord Jesus today, and welcome to our church! Christ is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We have been gathering around Word and sacrament since 1976. Our pastor would be happy to answer your questions about our service, our beliefs, or communicant membership in our congregation. Please join us again soon!

INFORMATION

Our RESTROOMS are located by going to the right out of the sanctuary doors and proceeding down the hallway. They are at the end of the hallway on the right. There is also a **FAMILY RESTROOM** with a changing station out the sanctuary doors to the left and around the corner.

We love hearing little ones in God’s house but if you feel like your child needs a moment there are speakers to hear the service as well as books and toys in the entryway

Our GUEST REGISTER is located in the entryway. Please leave us a record of your visit and we will be glad to supply you with more information about our church.

www.christcambridge.com

Pastor Sam Biebert
Church: 763.689.5333
Cell: 701.471.0341
sbiebert@gmail.com

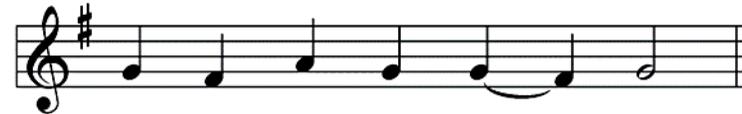
Sunday Service 9:00AM

Preschool Director Cliss Loescher
School: 763.689.2230
Cell: 612.810.1964
bldgblksforlife@gmail.com

THE LORD’S BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

L The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN:

MAY WE YOUR PRECEPTS, LORD, FULFILL | #458



We have been blessed by it and you have allowed us to be a blessing to others through it. For this we give you our heartfelt praise.

C Enable us, according to your good pleasure, to carry on this work which you have begun. Bless the staff that serves and will serve in these ministries and may they ever know your smile upon them.

L Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

L Heavenly Father, we know that we often don't pray as we should, yet you still hear our prayers and answer them. Because of your faithfulness we bring you these petitions as well as the ones your Son has taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-13

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

O MASTER OF THE LOVING HEART | #491

PRAYER

L Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
(sings) **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



COMMON SERVICE

This liturgy, found on page 15 in the red hymnal, is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

SPEAK, O LORD | #735

Please Stand.

GATHERING

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

C (sings) **Amen.**

These opening words remind us of our baptism and tell us who is here with us.

CONFESSION OF SINS

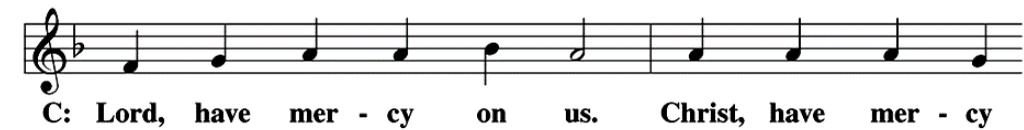
L Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

This expression, "Lord, have mercy," is one of the oldest responses of the worshiping Church. We need repentance and forgiveness on an ongoing basis. In his unending mercy, God provides.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ABSOLUTION

L God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C (sings) **Amen.**

L In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King.

God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

Versions of this song have been used in worship since the 4th century. In response to God's grace expressed through the ab-solution, the church sings out as the angels sang on Christ-mas night: "Glory be to God on high!" Luke 2:13-14

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L Lord God, heavenly Father, we praise and thank you that you are not a hidden God. You have revealed yourself through your Son Jesus. You have made yourself known as a God who has a love for us that is beyond our comprehension: a love that caused the divine to be clothed with our human nature; a love that has adopted us to be your children through Jesus.

C **Keep us ever as your own. Give us the confidence that, even though we know we have sinned, we can still come in prayer to you as our dear Father because you have forgiven us in Jesus.**

L Lord Jesus, we live in a world that would like to consign your Word to the rubbish heap. It has always been so. You assure us, though, that your Word, like you, is eternal. It will never cease to be that which brings light and truth to this world and the world will never cease to need it.

C **Continue to make us your salt and light in the world. Give us faith to understand that is what we are. Fill us with confidence to proclaim the full measure of your Word that those around us might see your light. Dwell within us that our lives will be the embodiment of that light.**

L O Holy Spirit, you know the struggles and challenges that face your people as we carry out the Gospel ministry which has been entrusted to us. Some congregations have no pastor to guide them or lack teachers or other staff to carry out the ministry before them; some see themselves as so small that they may wonder how they will survive; other ministries confront financial short-falls that limit what they can do.

C **Be with your people to guide and strengthen us. Provide shepherds for those flocks that need them and keep them gathered around your Word as they await the next called workers who will serve them. Assure the little flocks that they need not fear, for their Good Shepherd will guard and keep them. Move the hearts of your people to give generously to support the work of the church and let their offerings be like the five loaves and two fish that fed so many.**

L Lord of the church, we thank you for the ministry of education you allow us to carry on here with our Preschool, our Sunday School, our connection with the Area Lutheran High Schools, and the other teaching opportunities we pursue.

Theme: Do We Look Like Christians?

CREATE IN ME

Psalm 51

C: 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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Looking back to what was read and preached in the Word and looking forward to blessings of Jesus' body and blood, this sung prayer puts our focus where it needs to be: on the renewing grace of God.

Please be seated.

THANK OFFERING

1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The members of Christ Lutheran join together to do the Lord's work in Cambridge and throughout the world in our church body, the WELS. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Another option for giving is through the "Give Plus Church" app. Safely and securely make a donation from a debit/credit card or checking/savings account.



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

C (sings) *And also with you.*

L Let us pray.

C **Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C (sings) *Amen*

Please be seated.

The Prayer of the Day asks the Lord for spiritual blessings, based on the assigned Scripture readings. . The Prayer of the Day is often ancient, dating back to the 5th century. It's not surprising that the Church keeps using these prayers. The greatest needs of mankind never change.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:5-9a

⁵ Is this the kind of fast that I would choose: a day when a person afflicts himself and bows his head like a reed and makes his bed on sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day to gain the LORD's favor? ⁶ On the contrary, isn't this the kind of fast that I would choose: to loosen the chains of wickedness, to tear apart the ropes of a yoke, to release the oppressed so they go free, and to tear every yoke to pieces? ⁷ Isn't a true fast that you share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless and



afflicted into a house? Yes, when you see a naked person, you are to cover him, and do not hide yourself from your own flesh and blood. ⁸ Then your light will break forth like dawn, and your healing will spring up quickly. Your righteousness will go out ahead of you, and the Glory of the LORD will follow you. ⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer. You will cry out, and he will say, “Here I am!”

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 111 | pg. 106

May God’s greatness always be the light leading and the light we shine.



SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

As for me, brothers, when I came to you, I did not come with superior speech or wisdom in order to proclaim to you the testimony of God. ² For I had no intention of knowing anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness, in fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not marked by persuasive words of human wisdom, but by a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith would not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 8:12

Alleluia. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Alleluia.

Please stand.

L Our Savior meets us in the Gospel according to Matthew 5.



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

We stand in honor of the Gospel because it presents the words and works of Jesus, the Word Incarnate.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its flavor, how will it become salty again? Then it is no good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, they put it on a

stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way let your light shine in people’s presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ Amen I tell you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not even the smallest letter, or even part of a letter, will in any way pass away from the Law until everything is fulfilled. ¹⁹ So whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ Indeed I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and experts in the law, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

L The Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLE’S CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

A creed is a statement of faith. Creed comes from the Latin “credo,” which means “I believe.” The faith God gave us publicly and regularly confesses the triune God as Lord and Savior.

Theme: Do we look like Christians?

2-9-2020

What does a Christian look like? If you saw someone bowing their head and praying, you would maybe assume Christianity. If you saw someone making themselves low, our lesson mentioned making one's bed on sackcloth and ashes, that would seem to be pretty pious, pretty Christian wouldn't it? We might agree with those things but is that what a Christian looks like? How do you know if you are acting like a Christian? How do I know if I am acting like a Christian? Does a Christian always look happy, is a Christian always confident, does a Christian do everything right? What does a Christian look like?

In our Gospel lesson as well as in our lesson from 1 Corinthians we see that a Christian is called to be a light and salt in this earth, to be different and attractive to the world. We also saw just how important it is to have that which is salt, and light be the resolve to know and live Christ, and him crucified. In our lesson for this morning from Isaiah we have very direct questions from God to lead us to see what it is that makes a life a Christian or God – pleasing life. Let us listen once more to these words from God.

⁵Is this the kind of fast that I would choose: a day when a person afflicts himself and bows his head like a reed and makes his bed on sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day to gain the LORD's favor? ⁶On the contrary, isn't this the kind of fast that I would choose: to loosen the chains of wickedness, to tear apart the ropes of a yoke, to release the oppressed so they go free, and to tear every yoke to pieces? ⁷Isn't a true fast that you share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless and afflicted into a house? Yes, when you see a naked person, you are to cover him, and do not hide yourself from your own flesh and blood. ⁸Then your light will break forth like dawn, and your healing will spring up quickly. Your righteousness will go out ahead of you, and the Glory of the LORD will follow you. ⁹Then you will call, and the LORD will answer. You will cry out, and he will say, "Here I am!"

Can you look at this list with confidence and say, "Yup, that describes me."? While we may be good at one or some of the things in this list or at the very least one is easier than others, God doesn't create any room for self-soothing or self-comfort here. How often do we loosen the chains of wickedness or do we just sit and talk about how wicked some are? How often do we share bread with the hungry and bring the homeless and afflicted into a house? When we see a person hurting with shame or one who is actually lacking in one way, are we quick to help or is our first thought more along the lines that they have brought themselves into this mess or even just take comfort in social programs rather than do anything to actually help them?

If this is a description of a Christian, and let's be clear that it is, God help us. Sure, it can be easy to help others out with the things I am comfortable doing and so quick to make excuses when I am not. It can be simple to keep to myself and not get involved because I am busy enough the way it is, I say to myself. Satan whispers those excuses into my ears, and they sound so good, yeah that person didn't really want my help. I couldn't actually give them the thing they were looking for; my time is spent better doing this or that because those things will reach more people. To be honest, we can become really good at making up holy sounding excuses so as not to address the sad reality that lurks within me and that which also lurks within you. I am a sinner. There are a lot of times that my attitude and actions are really at work, not for Christ and to be his light and salt but for myself. And let's not kid ourselves, if it is not at work for Christ than I am at work to Satan. Sadly, it is more often than I want to admit, that I have trained that sinner inside of me so well that I even have him working to stroke my ego to make me think that I am a pretty good Christian.

The reality is, doing these things is hard. It will never be your first response or thought nor will it be mine. The reality is doing these things will wear us out, we will come up short and confused and we will always be wondering how do I juggle those acts of kindness and that light of Christ with acts of kindness and the light of Christ to my family? They are in need of enough help and now you are saying that I am supposed to be helping others? It all seems so confusing but at the same time, here is God's word right in front of me and right in

front of you. Ok, I'll bite, maybe I don't look so much like a Christian and if being a Christian looks like this, am I really a Christian? God help me, God have mercy on me! How can I possibly do these things? I have failed.

Getting to this step is important, but do not let Satan get even a finger hold in this discussion but instead, hear clearly once more the final verses in this section. "Then your light will break forth like dawn, and your healing will spring up quickly. Your righteousness will go out ahead of you, and the Glory of the LORD will follow you. ⁹Then you will call, and the LORD will answer. You will cry out, and he will say, "Here I am!"

Pause for a moment. "Your righteousness will go out ahead of you?" What righteousness? I am a shmuck. I am nothing. I have failed. I know. I have and so have you. We don't have righteousness to go out in front of us, at least none that comes from myself or yourself. But you do have righteousness. "God made him who had not sin to be sin for us so that in him WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

We, each and every one of us, need to keep Christ's righteousness before us, that is what needs to lead and guide us day by day. If I don't have that guiding me, well then it becomes about me, it becomes about what I have done or how great I am in comparison to others. But if Christ righteousness goes out in front of me, I cling to him, I need him, and I see life through him.

Additionally, when Christ and his righteousness lived and won for us is right in front of us, we can't help but recognize the help we need and did you notice how quick God is to give and grant his sure promise to us when that is the case? Furthermore, God tells us when this righteousness leads there is only one response from you and me. It is the only response from us, and it is a certain response from us. Then you will call, you will cry out and the Lord will answer, and he will say "here I am!"

Brothers and sisters, what does a Christian look like? From an outward perspective that is impossible to say. They will take all forms and looks; they will have passions scattered like chaff in the wind. They will have struggles both personal and public that cover the same spectrum. But their hearts will look exactly the same. They will have hearts that have but cut by the law and God's perfect expectations. But they will also be hearts that have been empowered, hearts that have been given a mission, hearts that have been made new and tied to the strong arm of God. They are hearts that yearn to protect the helpless and fill the empty through simply bringing others to know what they have been filled with.

A Christian will not always be a perfect example, but a Christian will always be willing to be led by the one who was, is, and will always be a perfect example. A Christian will not point to themselves or fill themselves up with the pride of what they have done or the ego of their attitude or actions, but a Christian is filled and fueled when they are Christ led. When we understand that, we will always see and understand just how much we have to give, just how brightly we can shine and how full and satisfied we can cause others to be. God has a lot of work to do through us, but he promises he will empower us for the task. May we then always know who leads, know who helps and watch in amazement as God shines Christ through us. Amen.