

Hello
my name is

Jesus

Worship Folder for January 10, 2021

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

www.christcambridge.com

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

Information to help you stay connected and get involved!

CHURCH INFORMATION

Pastor	Sam Biebert	Church Office	763.689.5333
Contact Information	ChristCambridgePastor@gmail.com 701.471.0341 (cell)	Webpage	www.christcambridge.com

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | JANUARY 11 — JANUARY 17

SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm	ZOOM Bible Class (Judges)
SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship w/ Communion
	10:00am	Voter's Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Attend! Please make it a priority to attend the Voter's Meeting next SUNDAY following our worship service. The work of our church is a responsibility that we all share! Join our family of CHRIST as we plan for the future and make important decisions that affect our ministry in our community.

Thank you! When Christmas is over, the decorations, sadly, need to be taken down and put away. (This does not happen by magic!) Thank you to everyone who helped undecorate the church!

New Church Directory! Look for an email this week with directions to sign up for your photo session online. You will also be able to sign up on Sundays at church. Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory. We hope all of you will participate so we can have a complete church directory. Photos will be taken **Tuesday, March 9** and **Wednesday, March 10**.

Can you serve? Youth Discipleship is looking for individuals willing to serve on its committee. Please contact Paul Sorgert or Pastor if you are interested. Thank you!

Sunday School Packets are available to pick up for your children. Please make sure to grab one.

Grab your Copy! Copies of the January Newsletter and the new Forward in Christ are on the entryway table.

"Here am I. Send me!"
Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: David, Deacon, Steve O.

Counters: Tom, Rick

Cleaners: Heinks, Gunderson, P. Miller

New Council Members

President - Sean Brown	Youth Discipleship - Paul Sorgert
Secretary - Brian Lawrence	Outreach and Fellowship - Doug Grey
Treasurer - Shawn Motl	Property and Finance - Brian Klawiter
Adult Discipleship - Tom Panning	Education - Barry Springborn

Thank you, Dan Heinks, for 3 years of faithful service as our Congregational President!

Women's Bible Study

Women of Christ! Are you looking to get in the Word and fuel your faith? Don't let your oil run low! Join our new Women's Bible Study! Our study will begin on **Monday, January 18** and will be held on **Monday evenings** (via Zoom) at **6pm**. Contact Cliss Loescher with questions!



MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn: “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord” (Christian Worship #89)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)
In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,
We lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,
We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession.

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

On the surface the ministry that Jesus began at his baptism appears to be an exercise in futility. But just as the Father said at his baptism, God was well pleased with his Son. That work therefore would be blessed richly, even though few realize or see it. It would be richly blessed in each of those who the Father gives to the Son—the Son wins them first and gives them to the Father and then the Father gives them back to the Son as rewards for his labors to win them! When you think of your baptism, think of this joyful and reciprocal giving inside of the Trinity at your baptism and through the rest of your life with and in Christ. Who could ever imagine such a thing! That’s how much God loves us, that we should be gifts dearly won by the Son for the Father and then gifts so highly prized by the Father that he gives them to the Son! But it’s all a secret, a mystery; we wouldn’t have guessed it from observation or figured it with unaided reason. So God told us!

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-6

Listen to me, you coastlands.

Pay attention, you faraway peoples!

The LORD called me from the womb.

When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.

² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword.

He hid me in the shadow of his hand.

He made me a polished arrow.

He concealed me in his quiver.

³ He said to me, “You are my servant Israel,
in whom I will display my glory.”

⁴ But I said to myself, “I have labored in vain.

I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing.

Yet a just verdict for me rests with the LORD,
and my reward is with my God.” ⁵ But now the LORD,

who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to turn Jacob back to him,

so that Israel might be gathered to him,

so that I will be honored in the eyes of the LORD,

because my God has been my strength—

⁶ the LORD said:

It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant

to raise up only the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel,

so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations,

so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth.

Second Lesson: Acts 16:25-34

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations

of the prison were shaken. Instantly all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains came

loose. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw that the prison doors were opened, he drew his

sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But

Paul shouted with a loud voice, “Don’t harm yourself, because we are all here!”²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling in front of Paul and Silas.³⁰ Then he brought them outside and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”³¹ They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household.”³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his home.³³ At the same hour of the night, he took them and washed their wounds. Without delay, he and all his family were baptized.³⁴ Then he brought Paul and Silas into his house and set food before them. He rejoiced, because he and his whole household had come to believe in God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia. (Mark 1:11b)

It’s almost a secret that Jesus was baptized; it appears that no one was there to witness it except for John. But what an amazing announcement! As the lowliest of the low baptized the highest of the high, the Trinity showed itself; the Spirit covered and filled the lowly human nature of the Son, and the Father attested to his favor in all that the Son is and is about to do. But it was all a secret except to John and now to us, to whom God reveals it in his Word and in our baptism. For there, too, is a mystery and secret known only to God and to those he reveals it. In your baptism the Trinity is hidden, but really there: the Spirit covers and comes to dwell in you; the Son presents you to his Father as one for whom he did all of his work; the Father is well pleased with you because of what his Son has done for you.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.⁶John was clothed in camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.⁷He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals!⁸I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.¹⁰Just as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.¹¹And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you.”

“Christ Begins” (Seminary Chorus)

*We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.
Water runs and all heaven opens wide, and a voice like thunder replies.*

*Refrain
He’s my Prophet, my Priest, my King; a light in the dark, Christ steps in.
Here’s my Savior, my God, my King. The time has come, Christ begins.*

*Mary’s whispering, but it’s not the time. Yet six jars are filled
With the finest wine. Tell me who is this by our side? Refrain*

See the sun out-shined on the hill and hide. Clothes like lightning white,

Heaven opens wide, and a voice like thunder replies: Refrain

*We stand, gathered 'round on the mountainside. Watch the closing clouds
Hide him from our eyes; with a voice, united we cry. Refrain*

Sermon on Acts 16:25-34

Theme: Get to Know Jesus “In His Power”

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

Theme: Get to Know Jesus “In His Power”

January 10, 2021

He had seen a lot in his time as a jailer but here was one to write home about. Two men who had been proclaiming this new God had driven a spirit out of a little girl which allowed her to tell the future. But they probably should have made use of her services because now they were in rough shape. Her owners were no longer able to profit off her and they were mad about it. They dragged these two men before the local court officials and told them what they had been doing. They were proclaiming a God other than Caesar and in general, promoting customs that just were not Roman.

It caused a stir to say the least and it was clear, an example needed to be made from them to put this attitude to rest. So, they beat them up pretty good and ordered the jailer to guard them securely. He made sure the most secure cell in the prison was used and then shackled their feet into stocks for good measure. It was going to take an act of God for them to escape, that was for sure.

But what was amazing about these two men was how they reacted. They did not complain they had been treated unfairly like most prisoners. They did not talk about the trial strongly influenced against them and how they had not been given a chance to defend themselves. What this jailer heard was singing. They were singing songs of praise to their God. In addition, there was praying to this same God. We do not know if this caused the jailer to scoff at them thinking their God could not help them now. We do not know if this caused the jailer to question his beliefs or to quietly sit and listen like the rest of the prisoners were doing. But we do know God was getting ready to show himself in all his might to this jailer. The calm before the storm was upon him. Let us listen to it along with him and may God open our eyes to see the power of Jesus as the jailer saw it.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. Instantly all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw that the prison doors were opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted with a loud voice, "Don't harm yourself, because we are all here!" ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling in front of Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his home. ³³ At the same hour of the night, he took them and washed their wounds. Without delay, he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴ Then he brought Paul and Silas into his house and set food before them. He rejoiced, because he and his whole household had come to believe in God.

Can you imagine it? An earthquake which shook the very foundations of the prison. A structure built for security to house the rubbish of society is shaken like a ragdoll and the doors keeping the prisoners separated from this jailer fling open wide. Terror fills his mind. Would he be overtaken by the prisoners? How severely would he be punished for their escape? God certainly showed his power in the earthquake but it was power that created complete fear and dread in his heart. It led him to think of only one thing to do...take his life.

But put yourself in the shoes of Paul and Silas for a moment. Punished unjustly and sitting in prison. It is often when we feel or know we have been wronged that we want to see God's power exacted on our behalf. It would be easy to pray for the punishment of the jailer for sticking them in the deepest, darkest and most secure corner of the prison. It would be easy to ask God to display all of his power so all those deserving his wrath would be punished.

But that would leave us just like this Jailer or worse. It puts us face to face with one we cannot face. It puts us face to face with the certainty that in the blink of an eye God could squash us and we would be deserving of it. God's power reveals what a silly question the jailer asked, "*What must I do to be saved?*" As if any one person could do anything to be saved from the God who demands perfection, as if anyone could do anything to be saved from the God who has the power displayed in the earthquake?

But this obvious display of power was not the power God really wanted to display. God wanted to put an even greater power on display for this Jailer and also for his family. And Paul knew this. By God's grace Paul knew that and so his answer to the Jailer's question was not "*This is what you must do...*" No! Paul's answer directed the jailer's eyes to Jesus as he stepped in the river and God the Father proclaimed he was pleased. Paul's answer directed the Jailer to the cross of Christ to see all that Jesus took from him as God the Father turned his face from him and placed the full brunt of sins punishment upon Jesus. Paul's answer was simply this: "*You must do nothing. It has all been done. There is nothing for you to do. Receive the benefit in faith and in baptism.*" Paul explained to the Jailer and to you and me that believing is not a doing, it is not some work we hang our hat on. Believing is simply the receiving of a wage earned by another.

Do you see it? Here is the real power. Jesus takes a man filled with terror, a man ready to take his own life, and he scoops not just him but his whole family up in the waters of baptism. He grabs hold of his heart through the power of the Holy Spirit working through water and His Word of truth. He resurrects this life from the pit of despair to the dancefloor of joy. God worked the knowledge of his reality in Christ, the truth he had a Savior who lived and died for him, a Savior who conquered death for him and the knowledge that this was all personally his.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are in the season of the church year called Epiphany. It is the time of year that we focus on Jesus life, the time of year we get to know Jesus. One aspect of getting to know Jesus is getting to know his power. Do you want to see it? Do you want God to reveal it in some magnificent feat of strength in your life apart from God's Word? Do we want to see it in nature to show the world just how mighty he is? If we do, we need to be ready to tremble and quake in fear and terror. To have the fear like the Israelites before Mt. Sinai as they pleaded with Moses to ask God to make it all stop. It was too overwhelming. It was too much because they were sinners before a perfect God.

Rather, may we see there is a better and far more blessed way to see and know God's power: consider your baptism. There, the eternal Triune God is present in grace and mercy to forgive and to receive us as a child and connect us directly to Christ, his victory over death and give the assurance just as he rose, so also will we. It is a display of power like no other because it gives hope to the hopeless. It gives strength to the weak. Although

it may seem secret and mysterious compared to something that rattles life like an earthquake, it lasts far longer. It breaks through the crust of our hardened hearts and shines Jesus and all of who he is into our lives. What a way to get to know our Jesus and what a reason to rejoice in his power! Amen.

Installation of Council Members

Offering: (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website (www.christcambridge.com) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

Prayer:

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise that you have provided for us a Savior and a salvation of which we can be absolutely certain. You say of Jesus, "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." You place your seal of approval on him so that we might trust both him and you. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we always find our delight in him as you do. In Jesus let us hear the words that you spoke to him also be spoken to us.

Lord Jesus, you fulfilled all righteousness for us. That was your goal and desire in life. You did that, not as a lord but as a servant, humbling yourself to obey your Father's will, being obedient to that will even when it seemed to be an exercise in futility. Help our hearts to have the same attitude that you did. Let us be ones whose goal it is to carry out your desires in everything that we think, say, and do. Give us faithfulness to continue as your servants especially in those circumstances when it seems to be a waste of our time and efforts. May we see your smile upon our service.

O Holy Spirit, you poured out your gifts and power on Jesus so that he might accomplish through you and your strength that which he came to earth to do. Keep us from relying on our own might or abilities to bring to reality that which you have assigned to us. Continue to pour out your gifts and power on us. Help us to find in you all that we need so that our work may have your blessing.

O Lord, the year is still new. As we set our plans in place, guide our thoughts so that everything is done to your glory. Help us to remember that you will cause all things to serve our eternal good. Guide our lives, both as individuals and as a congregation, so that we may carry out the ministry you have given us.

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

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 love and faithfulness, we bring you these petitions as well as the ones your Son has taught us to pray:

Private Petitions

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.

Children's Message

BLESSING:

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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: "All Who Believe and Are Baptized" (Christian Worship #299)