

Worship Folder for February 21, 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 | FEBRUARY 21 – FEBRUARY 28

TODAY	9:00am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
MONDAY	6:00pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom - <i>Wherever Love May Lead</i>)
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What is *Meditations*? Meditations is a personal devotional booklet offering a brief yet thought-provoking Bible study every day. Each quarterly issue is clearly and accurately written, with daily Bible verses, devotions, and prayers. Through focus on and faith in God's true Word, Meditations provides guidance and encouragement for daily living. If you're looking for a daily devotional book with faith-building readings, scriptural accuracy, and applicable messages, pick up an issue of Meditations today. **The newest issue is on the entryway table! Pick up a copy!**

New Church Directory! Don't forget to sign up for your photography sitting! Photos will be taken **Tuesday, March 9** and **Wednesday, March 10**. Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory. We hope everyone will participate so we can have a complete church directory.

Sunday School Did you know there are packets available for your children? Until we are able to hold Sunday School again in person, please make sure to grab a packet and make use of it for your home study!

Women's Bible Study Join us via Zoom on Mondays at 6:00pm, as we work through the study *Wherever Love May Lead*. Contact Cliss Loescher with questions.

Take a PEEK at next WEEK!

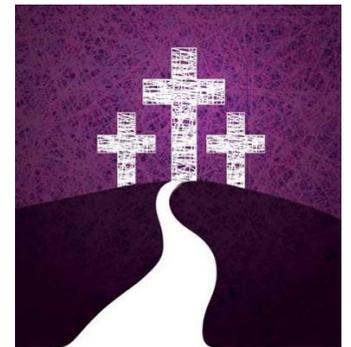
"Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: Brian Klawiter, Austin Merrifield & Paul Sorgert

Counters: Barry Springborn & Brian Merrifield

Cleaners: Harlan & Jessica Green, Brian & Kathryn Merrifield



Worship this Lenten Season

Wednesday, February 24 @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 3 @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 10 @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 17 @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 24 @ 6:30pm

Maundy Thursday – March 31

Good Friday – April 1

EASTER SUNDAY – April 4

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (Christian Worship #201)

(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.

A psalm by David. When he fled from Absalom, his son.

First Lesson: Psalm 3

¹ O LORD, how my foes are multiplying!
Many are rising up against me!
² Many are saying about my life,
“There is no salvation for him in God.”
³ But you, O LORD, are a shield for me.
You are my glory and the one who lifts up my head.
⁴ With a loud voice I cry out to the LORD,
and he answers me from his holy mountain.
⁵ I lie down, and I sleep.
I awake, because the LORD sustains me.
⁶ I will not be afraid of the thousands of people
who line up against me on all sides.
⁷ Rise up, O LORD! Save me, my God!
Yes, you will strike all my enemies on the jaw.
The teeth of the wicked you will break.
⁸ Salvation belongs to the LORD.
Your blessing rests on your people.

As beautiful as these verses are, it takes a miracle for us to believe them! That’s what Lent is all about, a detailing of the otherwise unbelievable love of God in the sacrifice of his own Son for the likes of us sinners. Having given his Son, and having performed the miracle of giving us faith to believe it, how could we ever again doubt his love? Come death, come angels or demons! Let the past haunt me and the present scare me and the future terrify me! It is all nothing; the love of God in Christ leaves me at peace and secure. Lent proves that love as nothing else could. The repentance that is always profound sorrow over sin has its counterpart in an equal measure of confidence in the love of God for sinners. Indeed sorrow filled repentance is a joy when I know what God’s response to it will be! And a repentance that is without genuine terror or real sorrow receives the proclamation of Lent and of salvation won coldly or with indifference.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?³³ Who will bring an accusation against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies! ³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God’s right hand and who is also interceding for us! ³⁵ What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written: For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY It is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.” (Matthew 4:10b)

Make no mistake about it: the life of Christ for us was along a hard and painful road. He begins his earthly ministry and his journey to the cross by a time of loneliness and struggle in the desert. So intense is the struggle that the angels attend him! That’s a mystery deep and profound. What possible help could they be? Nevertheless there it is: as in Gethsemane, they do not come to lessen his struggle but to help him in some way endure it or continue in it. Given the seriousness with which he begins his journey to the cross, you can be sure that his call to repentance was not trite or cute or trivial. The good news is that he was victorious in the struggle, and that he won it for us. Now he calls us into his kingdom. Pass through the gate of repentance to the good news Lent announces, and then go back into the desert to struggle against the foes of the devil, the world and your own flesh with him as your strength and support and with the holy angels as your companions. The alternative? A struggle outside of the kingdom with the fallen angel/destroyer as your guide and his doom as your future

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:12-15

¹² The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him. ¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ “The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

["Every Step"](#)

Sermon on Psalm 3

Theme: “The Struggle Against the Enemy”

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children' Message](#)

Theme: “The Struggle Against the Enemy”

February 21, 2021

What is your struggle and who is your enemy? Do you have a struggle against an idea or an belief so your enemy in this matter are those who hold on to this idea or belief? Do you have a struggle against someone who is out to physically make your life difficult so currently they are your enemy in that regard? Is your struggle against a pet sin and so the enemy is in fact you? Is your struggle against a feeling or a situation in your life and so your enemy may be anyone who ignores your plea for help or maybe even the climate of society which makes us feel guilty or even ashamed to bring it up as a struggle? Is your struggle and consequent enemy something different all together?

Take a moment to look around you this morning. Look at the different faces of the individuals gathered here in this place. We are all dealing with struggles. We all have hurt in our lives. We all have something that is currently a challenge in our lives. How do we deal with it? More importantly, does God’s word speak to it? Is there help to be found in him to overcome it?

The truth is, the Christian life is a struggle. The struggle is real and faith in Christ does not make us exempt from the struggle. For the Sundays during this Lenten season we are going to meditate on the words of the Psalm writers who put the struggle of the believer into poetry and prayer. As we look into these struggles, relate to them and insert our own specific versions of them in the process, we recognize they are going before our God who perfectly knows what it is like to struggle. We see them addressed to a Savior who entered our struggle to win the victory over the struggle, to equip us for our struggle. Brothers and sisters, the struggle is real, but may we also see through this series how the struggle is good. We start this series off sharing with David the struggle against the enemy. We turn once more to our lesson found in Psalm 3.

A psalm by David. When he fled from Absalom, his son. ¹ O LORD, how my foes are multiplying! Many are rising up against me! ² Many are saying about my life, "There is no salvation for him in God." ³ But you, O LORD, are a shield for me. You are my glory and the one who lifts up my head. ⁴ With a loud voice I cry out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. ⁵ I lie down, and I sleep. I awake, because the LORD sustains me. ⁶ I will not be afraid of the thousands of people who line up against me on all sides. ⁷ Rise up, O LORD! Save me, my God! Yes, you will strike all my enemies on the jaw. The teeth of the wicked you will break. ⁸ Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing rests on your people.

Can you imagine this scenario? Fleeing from your own son. King David's Son had undermined his father's authority for a period of four years. He had gained popularity in that timeframe and eventually stole from David's side some of his closest allies and they hearts of the Israelites and set himself up as King and forced David to flee for his life. He made mighty King David flee in fear and took over Jerusalem. It didn't look good for David. It looked as if God himself was against him. David even allowed a man to call down curses upon him and throw rocks at him and his men without defending himself. These were truly dark times for David. A struggle in every sense of the word.

Additionally, there was no easy solution, no quick fix for his situation. It was not as though David could just think happy thoughts and have the situation be all over. It was not as if by sheer grit and determination he could muster through it and feel joyful once more. From an earthly stand point it was a lose-lose. Eventually, his son Absalom would end up being killed in the battle that took place and David would be deeply saddened over the loss of his Son.

But there is a lesson to be learned in this struggle. The struggle did not magically drift away. It was not like upon going to God in prayer, David woke up the next day and everything was magically better. But notice, God did answer David's prayer. The answer allowed David to sleep when he laid down to sleep. The answer allowed David to wake and be sustained by his God. And what was the answer to David's prayer? Was it an earthly fix to all of David's problems, to the struggle he found himself in? Not from the standpoint that his and Absalom's relationship was magically restored. Not from the standpoint that he could even come out of hiding and people stopped hating him. But confidence was there despite all the reasons he had to lack it. He was able to overcome the struggle, even in the face of enemies who wanted to take his life. His whole attitude was turned away from his enemies and centered squarely on his ally.

But how? What did God show him? How exactly did God help him? In short, God gave him this struggle. It was a struggle that ripped every bit of power he could possibly perceive he had and took it from him. It was a struggle that led him to rely solely on his God. It was a struggle that drove him behind the shield of the promises his God and the promises of the future glory he had in store for David. The future glory of a perfect eternity won for him by the life, death and resurrection of his God. The future glory which would show all of

the earthly blessings David once knew as tattered rags of a sin torn world. The shield David was able to rest behind was the word of his God which spoke a blessing to David right now and assured him of the promise no enemy would ever be able to rob from him, no enemy would ever be able to affect or bring to an end. It was this assurance which allowed David to lay down his head and sleep. It was this assurance which allowed him to awake and face the day with confidence because his life was sustained by his God, and nothing else.

So now it really comes down to you and your enemies. No dancing around them, no trying to ignore them. They are real. They affect you. They are no less powerful than David's because they can cause you to run and flee just like his did. They can strip you of your dignity, self-worth, and power just like his did. They can multiply and grow by the day and they can lead you to question the saving power of your God just like his did. There is no point in comparing yours with his because his were not yours just as yours are not his. But your God is the same and there is equal comfort there for you as there was for David.

It is important to know the problem with struggle does not lie with God, his aid, his help. It lies with us in wanting to overcome them ourselves, wanting to hide them from the rest of the world so we appear stronger, trying to ignore them or make deals with them. We don't like or want to see them as gifts from a gracious God or as struggles God allows to show us how powerful he is to give us the strength to stand up to them.

This is maybe the hardest but most important lesson to learn from David here in Psalm 3. His Son had conspired against him and was looking to take his life. His people had been turned away from their loyalty to their King. David was on the run, he was fleeing like an escaped prisoner. It was more than David could handle. But it was not more than his God could handle.

Your God has gone face to face with your greatest enemies, the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh, and all the trickle down effects of their rule. He met the challenge head on and he won. Through Baptism he places his name on you, he makes you his child even a part of his own body. He gives you his shield which has been tried and proven in the fires of battle, get behind it for protection. He comes to us when our enemies have beat us down and seem to have the upper hand and gives us a hand up and lifts up our heads to see our glory is not in our strength but our glory is really and truly present in him. Your God has marched against your enemies and God knows the outcome. May we learn from David in the struggle against our enemies. May we find strength in God and his promises, promises like that in Isaiah 54 where God assures us "Every weapon formed against you will fail, and you will condemn every tongue that rises up to judge you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD. Their righteousness is from me, declares the LORD." And brothers and sisters, may we lay down and sleep in His strength and may we open our eyes in confidence that our God will continue to sustain us. Amen.

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:

L: Heavenly Father, in your great love you allow us to endure times of trial and temptation so that you might purify us like gold. You yourself will put our faith to the test so that we learn to trust you more completely and enjoy the blessing that comes as a result. Give us at all times the faith of an Abraham who was able to say to Isaac, "The Lord will provide," even though he did not know how or when you would do so. Then we will be able to confess with the Psalmist:

C: The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps. 27:1)

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you were tempted in every way in life, just as we are, and yet you remained without sin (Heb. 4:15). You became one of us so that you might be a merciful and faithful high priest for us, sympathizing with us in our weaknesses and supplying us with all that we need to face the temptations that beset us. Give us confidence to approach your throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need, for then we will be able to sing:

C: The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

L: O Holy Spirit, the real battles in this life are not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces in the heavenly realms (Eph 6:10). You do not leave us defenseless against these foes. You supply us with the breastplate of righteousness, the sword of the Spirit, the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, and the gospel of peace. We ask your strength especially for those Christians at home and abroad who are facing brutal hostility for the name of Jesus. May they hold firmly to this truth:

C: The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

L: O Lord, we hear daily in the news media those whose lives have been affected by some unexpected tragedy. Comfort those who are your own with the peace that only you can give. For those who do not know you may it be the occasion which allows you to make yourself known that they, too, may be led to say with us:

C: The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

L: We bring you, O Lord, our private petitions.

L: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear your people for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray:

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.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1Corinthians 11:23-25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

(spoken) **AMEN**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

God tells us in the Bible that his Supper is for sinners who are accurately instructed in his word, who examine themselves by living in repentance, and who recognize the miraculous real presence of Jesus' body and blood. It is our joy and honor to use God's Holy Word. Therefore, we invite only current members of Christ, (and those from sister WELS and ELS congregations) come forward to receive the Sacrament at the direction of the ushers. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor before taking part in the sacrament. He welcomes the chance to study what God says with you. And thanks so much for honoring God's Word in this manner.

⇒ One option for preparation is available in the red hymnal on page 156.

In order to maintain proper social distancing, we will be observing "continuous flow" for communion. You will be ushered up one row/family unit at a time. You will receive the bread and the wine and then return to your seats. The communion blessing will be spoken to all following the distribution.

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: "I Walk in Danger All the Way" (Christian Worship Supplement #431)