

*Worship Folder for February 28, 2021*

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

[www.christcambridge.com](http://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

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

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | FEBRUARY 21 – MARCH 7

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

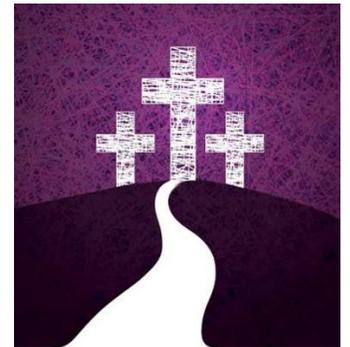
**Available to YOU!** Please pick up the newest issues of *Meditations* and *Forward In Christ* on the entryway table! Great devotions and wonderful articles to keep you informed and help you along your faith walk.

**Easter Flowers** There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to purchase flowers to beautify our sanctuary for Easter. If you are not able to come to church and would still like to purchase flowers, please email Karen Panning at [kkbecker2000@gmail.com](mailto:kkbecker2000@gmail.com) and she will order it for you.

### Available Flowers:

Easter Lilies - \$8      Hydrangeas - \$20  
Tulip Plants - \$8

Payment can be given  
to Karen Panning.



**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!

## Take a PEEK at next WEEK!

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

**Ushers:** Tom Panning, Rick Weissenfluh, Sean Brown  
**Counters:** Sean Brown, Emma Biebert  
**Cleaners:** Andrew & Anne Mundt & Mary Person

### Worship this Lenten Season

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:** “Lord, You I Love with All My Heart” (Christian Worship #434)

*(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.**

## First Lesson: Psalm 73

A psalm by Asaph.

<sup>1</sup> Surely God is good to Israel, to the pure in heart. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet almost slipped out from under me. I almost lost my footing. <sup>3</sup> I even envied the arrogant when I observed the peace of the wicked.

<sup>4</sup> For there are no struggles at their death. Their bodies are sturdy. <sup>5</sup> They do not have the trouble common to people. They are not plagued along with the rest of mankind. <sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace. They wear violence like clothing. <sup>7</sup> Their eyes bulge out of their fat. The schemes of their hearts step over boundaries. <sup>8</sup> They mock. They speak maliciously. From a high perch they threaten oppression. <sup>9</sup> They set their mouths against the heavens. Their tongues strut around on earth. <sup>10</sup> Therefore God's people turn to them, and they drink it all in. <sup>11</sup> They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?" <sup>12</sup> See, this is what the wicked are like—secure forever, they increase in strength.

<sup>13</sup> Have I really kept my heart pure for nothing? Have I kept my hands clean in vain? <sup>14</sup> I have been plagued all day. My punishment comes every morning. <sup>15</sup> If I had said, "I will speak like this," I would certainly have betrayed the circle of your children. <sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand this, it was very troubling to me, <sup>17</sup> until I went to the sanctuary of God. Then I understood their end.

<sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery places. You cause them to fall into destruction. <sup>19</sup> How quickly they come to ruin, completely destroyed by terrors! <sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when someone wakes up. So when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them like an illusion. <sup>21</sup> Yes, my heart was bitter, and I was torn up inside. <sup>22</sup> I was unthinking and ignorant. I was a dumb animal before you. <sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you. You hold me by my right hand. <sup>24</sup> With your guidance you lead me, and afterward, you will take me to glory. <sup>25</sup> Who else is there for me in heaven? And besides you, I desire no one else on earth. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever. <sup>27</sup> No doubt about it! Those who are far from you will perish. You destroy all who commit adultery against you. <sup>28</sup> As for me, God's nearness is good for me. I have made the LORD God my refuge, so that I can tell about all your works.

*To the world the real meaning of Lent makes no sense at all. Only the Christian gets it, and that as a result of the miracle of faith worked by the proclamation of the gospel. And this is that miracle: Christ the holy one, Christ the innocent, suffered for man the sinner, for man the guilty. The suffering was real. So too was its result: Christ suffering for sinners and in their place makes them innocent in God's sight. Because we would never get the point or hang on to it, we suffer, too. Our suffering, whether from the purifying and purging hand of God or from his permission granted to the devil to scourge us as he scourged Job and Paul, helps us to despair of ourselves and our own strength and to live by faith in his suffering for us sinners. Reconciled we now cling to him confidently in suffering as we await the final manifestation of the glory of his resurrection. Therefore we embrace the suffering Savior and do not run away from our own suffering; both are gifts of grace for sinners who have become saints by virtue of Christ's suffering and through faith in his merit. Only a Christian can grasp that.*

## **Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God.<sup>3</sup> Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, <sup>4</sup>and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.<sup>6</sup> For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. <sup>8</sup>But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. <sup>10</sup>For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8b)

*There it is, the stark reality: the love of God is inseparably connected to the cross, both his and ours! The price of our salvation is steep indeed! The suffering was as real as the resurrection which followed it. The cross of the Christian is likewise as real as the glory which follows it. In both cases, no cross, no crown! In Christ's case the cross is redemptive. In our case the cross is the necessary consequence of his redemptive work, not its cause—but nevertheless an indispensable consequence. Be careful in defining it; the cross is not all suffering. It is all suffering that comes as a result of following Jesus, e.g., persecution, the excruciating pain to self of denying self, even the struggle against both self-righteousness and despair. Our cross drives us to his cross both for forgiveness and for strength (Note the Prayer of the Day). Beware of proving Marx and Lenin right when they said that religion is the opium of the masses; the religion of the cross certainly is not that!*

## **Gospel Reading: Mark 8:31-38**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men."<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> After all, what good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his

soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>38</sup> In fact, whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

## ["Peace Like A River"](#)

### Sermon on Psalm 73

#### Theme: “The Struggle Seems Unfair”

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children' Message](#)

Theme: “The Struggle Seems Unfair”

February 28, 2021

That is not fair. Do you ever find yourself saying or even thinking that, if only in the back of your mind? It is not fair that God allows people with evil and greedy intent to have access to so many resources. If only we had access to half as much, just think of all the good we could do! Why do I seem to be going through difficulty after difficulty when others who do not make time to be in God’s house, others who do not give anything of their time or talents seem to skate through without a care in the world? Why do I even struggle over my sin, especially when there are so many who don’t just struggle but they even brag about their sin, derive pride from their sinful actions and seem to have more peace and joy than I do?

It is not hard to look around this world and see hoards of examples of these things. As we do, it is also easy for the thought to creep into our minds, maybe God does not really care all that much about right and wrong. Maybe God does not have the power he claims to have, and he is powerless to destroy evil, I mean it is everywhere. Maybe, there is no God. Have you ever had any of these thoughts? If you have not, how do you address these questions? They are real and valid questions to consider. They are questions many people have had before you and they are questions many will have after you. They are questions which have caused many to stray from the faith and they are even questions which have caused many to reject faith in God.

Another individual who had these questions was a man named Asaph. He had a difficult time dealing with the problem of suffering God’s people endured, especially as he looked around and godless nations were enjoying great prosperity. In fact, the prosperity of the wicked was so troubling that Asaph was in danger of losing his faith over it. As we turn to psalm 73 today, we find ourselves struggling right along with Asaph and ponder how fair the struggle we face is. Why do the wicked prosper and how can we find peace to not just ignore the question but to understand the question and, additionally, understand our God and his control better? We turn to God’s Word for answers:

A psalm by Asaph.

<sup>1</sup> Surely God is good to Israel, to the pure in heart. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet almost slipped out from under me. I almost lost my footing. <sup>3</sup> I even envied the arrogant when I observed the peace of the wicked.

<sup>4</sup> For there are no struggles at their death. Their bodies are sturdy. <sup>5</sup> They do not have the trouble common to people. They are not plagued along with the rest of mankind. <sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace. They wear violence like clothing. <sup>7</sup> Their eyes bulge out of their fat. The schemes of their hearts step over boundaries. <sup>8</sup> They mock. They speak maliciously. From a high perch they threaten oppression. <sup>9</sup> They set their mouths against the heavens. Their tongues strut around on earth. <sup>10</sup> Therefore God’s people turn to them, and they drink it all in. <sup>11</sup> They say, “How can

God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?" <sup>12</sup> See, this is what the wicked are like—secure forever, they increase in strength.

<sup>13</sup> Have I really kept my heart pure for nothing? Have I kept my hands clean in vain? <sup>14</sup> I have been plagued all day. My punishment comes every morning. <sup>15</sup> If I had said, "I will speak like this," I would certainly have betrayed the circle of your children. <sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand this, it was very troubling to me, <sup>17</sup> until I went to the sanctuary of God. Then I understood their end.

<sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery places. You cause them to fall into destruction. <sup>19</sup> How quickly they come to ruin, completely destroyed by terrors! <sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when someone wakes up. So when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them like an illusion. <sup>21</sup> Yes, my heart was bitter, and I was torn up inside. <sup>22</sup> I was unthinking and ignorant. I was a dumb animal before you. <sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you. You hold me by my right hand. <sup>24</sup> With your guidance you lead me, and afterward, you will take me to glory. <sup>25</sup> Who else is there for me in heaven? And besides you, I desire no one else on earth. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever. <sup>27</sup> No doubt about it! Those who are far from you will perish. You destroy all who commit adultery against you. <sup>28</sup> As for me, God's nearness is good for me. I have made the LORD God my refuge, so that I can tell about all your works.

At first, Asaph's meditation did him no good. It seemed like the more he looked into the "unfairness" of this struggle, the more reasons he found to doubt God. Asaph was on the brink of a truly dangerous mindset and a terrible fall as he questioned "Have I really kept my heart pure for nothing? Have I kept my hands clean in vain? And it is not hard to see why. It was so obvious how against God these people were. They were proud of their sins, they spoke ill of God and openly challenged him. They gained a following based off of their corruption, they gained wealth and prosperity in the process. They let this world and its treasures of health, wealth and happiness set the baseline for their pursuits and they did not seem to suffer for it. And Asaph obsessed over it. This thought plagued him and what made it worse is that every day he woke up to his troubles, his struggles, his frustrations and his sadness and all he wanted was a taste of theirs. It turned his mind and his thoughts into a toxic place. Asaph says as much with the comment, "Yes, my heart was bitter, and I was torn up inside. I was unthinking and ignorant."

All of this was troubling to Asaph, it seemed unfair and it certainly looked as though God was not in this picture nor did it pay to try and put him the picture. What seemed to pay was wickedness, corruption, pride, and worldliness. But then Asaph tried something different. Instead of looking at the world to try and understand this struggle and how unfair it seemed, Asaph went looking to the sanctuary of God. It was there he started to understand how opposite his thinking actually was. In fact, he saw how privileged he was and how sad the existence of these people he once envied was.

Upon re-examining his views on fairness, Asaph realized the problem which had been perplexing him was resolved by two unshakable facts. The first was the certain judgement of the wicked and what would come of all they had built up. They live life in fear for all they have is here and now. They can so easily fall into ruin or destruction. All they have built up can be lost in the blink of an eye or wasted away by subsequent generations. Their names are lost to history and are quickly forgotten. More than that, they only have destruction and an eternity of separation to look forward to at the end of time. They will never know the life you desire people to know and have, they will only know what it means to be sent away and perish right along with the rest of those of this world.

Additionally, when Asaph refocused his vision, he saw everything he already had, he even wondered how he could have ever been so stupid so as to not see this. With eyes opened to his gracious God, he saw the constant counsel God gave him, he saw the security he possessed by faith, security not even death could take away. He saw the fellowship he had with God, God's nearness, protection, and ever present help. More than

all this, he was reminded of the timeframe of these blessings. They would only grow and they would only be seen with greater clarity until that day when all of God's lovingkindness would be seen in the eternal glory Asaph would possess.

What about your struggle seems unfair? Do you look at those who enjoy time and peace with their family because they just don't bring up religion while this remains a daily battle and inner struggle for you? Do you look at the time you seem to lose in an already busy week while friends and coworkers enjoy all sort of time off and do the things they like without any guilt because they have no church family or worship life? Do you look with envy on those who seem to always be getting the latest and greatest as you seem to give your opportunity to have more away in your offerings? Does the struggle seem unfair to you does the struggle ever seem to weigh you down as you look around and it appears as though happiness could be more attainable if only you made life less about God and more about you?

Brothers and sisters, when you feel this way, may the psalm God led Asaph to write live in you and your heart as well and may it lead you to redirect where you are looking. Turn your eyes to the cross of Christ and hear him shout of your worth with his final breath. Turn your ears to the living and enduring word of God as he proclaims himself to you and all he has promised you there. May it lead us to also confess with Asaph, "My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever. Finally, may bring us to proclaim unfairness, not of our struggle but of the love of Christ for us. Amen.

**Offering:** (Due to COVID19 the offering plate will not be passed around. If you would like to make a donation please place your offering in the basket by the doors to the sanctuary. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website ([www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

### **Prayer:**

L: Lord God, heavenly Father, when your people of old, because of the difficulties they were experiencing, thought that you had abandoned and forgotten them, you assured them, "I have engraved you on the palms of my hands (Is 49:16)." We confess that we have sometimes felt as they did because our sinful nature focuses on the reasons you shouldn't love us and not on the fact that you do.

**C: At such times remind us of how you showed your love and faithfulness to believers like Jacob. Most of all, remind us of our Savior's hands that were pierced for us to establish perfect and permanent peace with you through the forgiveness of sins.**

L: Lord Jesus, your suffering on the cross occupied only a few hours of your earthly sojourn, but it was a reality that shaped your entire ministry. You denied yourself and were obedient to your Father's will, including death on the cross, so that we might have life.

**C: Help us to understand that, as we follow you, our lives too will be "the way of the cross." There will be difficulties that come just because we deny ourselves and follow**

**you. Strengthen our faith to believe that you will be with us every step of the way just as your Father was with you and that you will bring us safely through them.**

L: O Holy Spirit, pour out your gifts on us so that we grow in patience and endurance in our faith. Be with all those who are struggling against the ills and evils of life or are contending for the faith against those who would like to silence it.

**C: Give us the ability to rejoice in our God day by day. Grant us strength so that we tell others the reason for the hope that we have within us.**

L: Lord of the church, we ask your blessing upon our fellow members and their ministries in our congregations throughout the Synod. Some of them are flourishing because of the way you have smiled on them. Others are facing challenges which might seem overwhelming. Many are just quietly going about the work you have given them to do.

**C: We know that you will never forget them or us. Keep all of us mindful of the truth that we are part of your chosen people whom you have called to declare your praises. Bless us in our endeavors in the ways that best serve your kingdom. May your glory be made known both in the worship we bring to you and the work you do for us.**

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.**

## **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: "Jesus, Lead Us On" (Christian Worship #422)**