

Hello  
my name is

Jesus

*Worship Folder for February 7, 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 8 – FEBRUARY 14

<b>TODAY</b>	9:00am	Worship
	10:00am	Call Meeting
<b>MONDAY</b>	5:00pm	Adult Discipleship Meeting
	5:30pm	Church Council Meeting
	6:00pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom - <i>Wherever Love May Lead</i> )
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6:30pm	Bible Class (Zoom - <i>Judges</i> )
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00am	Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Call Meeting** A meeting to call a teacher to serve God and carry out his work here at Christ will take place **TODAY** following worship. We hope you stick around and participate in this process!

**Stay Informed** The new Forward in Christ and the February Newsletters are available in the entryway.

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

**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.

**Bible Study** This is the last week of our Wednesday ZOOM Bible Study meetings. We will begin again with a new topic after Easter.



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

**Ushers:** Brian Klawiter, Austin Merrifield & Paul Sorgert  
**Counters:** Tom Panning, Rick Weissenfluh  
**Cleaners:** Dennis & Ellen Cunningham & Jordan & Joy LaValle

### Worship this Lenten Season

Wednesday, February 17 @ 6:30pm  
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:** “All Praise to God Who Reigns Above” (Christian Worship #236)

*(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: Hosea 2:14-16, 19, 20**

<sup>14</sup> But watch! I am going to court her.

I will bring her into the wilderness.

I will speak tenderly to her.

<sup>15</sup> There I will give her vineyards back to her.

The Valley of Achor will be a door of hope.

She will respond there as in the days of her youth,  
as in the day she came up from the land of Egypt.

<sup>16</sup> In that day, declares the LORD, this is what will take place:

You will call me “my husband.”

You will no longer call me “my master.”

<sup>19</sup> I will pledge you to myself in marriage forever.

I will pledge you to myself in marriage—

with righteousness, justice, mercy, and compassion.

<sup>20</sup> In faithfulness I will pledge you to myself in marriage,  
and you will know the LORD.

*May the effective working of the gospel become ever more evident in our lives with one another and in the world! Then Christ's glory will be seen. The glory is double; first it is glorious in the competence the gospel gives to those who proclaim it, and then in the effect that that gospel has on many who hear it.*

## **Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:1b-6**

Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? <sup>2</sup>You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. <sup>3</sup>It is clear that you are a letter from Christ, delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on stone tablets but on tablets that are hearts of flesh. <sup>4</sup>Such is the confidence we have through Christ before God. <sup>5</sup>Not that we are competent by ourselves to claim that anything comes from us; rather, our competence is from God. <sup>6</sup>He also made us competent as ministers of a new testament (not of letter, but of spirit). For the letter kills, but the spirit gives life.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

Alleluia. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end.

Alleluia. (Lamentations 3:22)

*For the one whom Christ has called and made his own, there is only one real sorrow in the world, and that is to be separated from Christ or to think oneself separated from Christ in Word and sacraments. Sadness comes when we look away from him. Weeping comes when our circumstances suggest that God has moved away from us because of our sins, that he has shown himself even as my enemy. Then we no longer see his true glory or our own in the perfect robe of righteousness that he has given us to wear. We start again with a cut and paste approach to religion and make ours like everyone else's: either a religion of work/self righteousness, or a religion of smorgasbord Christianity—a little of this and a little of that, but nothing that really gets in the way of what the flesh wants to do. Christ gives us a perfect robe and joy in the new wine of the gospel; patching the old religion won't help it; mixing the new into the old will only destroy both.*

*There is no other religion or philosophy which will bring us anywhere near to the glory of Christ and what his glorious gospel brings to us and makes of us. He is unique; what he brings us is unique.*

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 2:18-22**

<sup>18</sup> John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. They came and asked Jesus, "Why is it that John's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples fast, but your disciples do not fast?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus said to them, "The friends of the bridegroom cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup> But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then on that day they will fast. <sup>21</sup> No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the patch shrinks, the new tears away from the old, and a worse tear is made. <sup>22</sup> No one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will pour out, and the skins will be ruined. Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

["Never Alone"](#)

## **Sermon on Hosea 2:14-16, 19, 20**

### **Theme: Get to Know Jesus "In His Unique Love"**

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Theme: Get to Know Jesus "In His Unique Love"

February 7, 2021

What is your favorite love story? Is it the mushy kind of story that requires a box of Kleenex or is it the tale of overcoming many physical obstacles, overcoming all odds for the girl who is worth all of the pain and trials? Regardless of what it looks like, everyone loves a good love story, even if it is just their own. But there is something in common with every love story, the plot is generally the same, love is there from both sides. There is faithfulness to each other.

But then there is Jesus' love story and to be honest, it seems to be a little more like a tragedy than a love story. He is faithful to the one he loves and she is not. She keeps running off away from him and he goes back after her. After a while it almost becomes sad. Why not just admit the relationship is a lost cause? Why not just go and look for another who will actually love him back? And yet in the midst of this persistent unfaithfulness he shows even more persistent faithfulness. Despite all of the leaving he chases and wins her back. Despite all of the trouble this relationship will never last there is complete hope God has for it.

Today, we finish up our series on getting to know Jesus and as we do so, we look at how he loves. It is perhaps the deepest look into Jesus we get, for we get to look into his heart. But this look is also personal because to look at his heart is to see how this tale of love is just as much about our unfaithfulness as it is about his love. So, together, let's go to God's Word and get to know Jesus in his unique love for you and me. We read from Hosea 2.

<sup>14</sup> But watch! I am going to court her. I will bring her into the wilderness. I will speak tenderly to her. <sup>15</sup> There I will give her vineyards back to her. The Valley of Achor will be a door of hope. She will respond there as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up from the land of Egypt. <sup>16</sup> In that day, declares the LORD, this is what will take place: You will call me "my husband." You will no longer call me "my master."

**<sup>19</sup> I will pledge you to myself in marriage forever. I will pledge you to myself in marriage—with righteousness, justice, mercy, and compassion. <sup>20</sup> In faithfulness I will pledge you to myself in marriage, and you will know the LORD.**

The book of Hosea is unique in that God called Hosea to a very difficult life because he called him to be a living picture of his relationship with Israel. God told Hosea to take Gomer, an adulterous woman, as his wife. It is through this picture of faithfulness in the face of faithlessness that God desired to give a wake up call to Israel so they might see how far they had fallen away from God. It is a book which contains some of the most passionate threats the Old Testament knows while at the same time giving the portrayal of God who loves when all possibility of loving has rightly ceased.

This is really the flavor of the verses before us this morning. God is in pursuit of his bride who has been unfaithful to him. He goes with the intention of rekindling his love for her. Courting her all over again. The word Achor means distress, it is in this valley he is going to once again bring hope. God is renewing himself to the one who has been unfaithful all over again. He is once again stating he will never leave or forsake and his intentions are simply this, that his bride will see his love and will respond in thankfulness to that love.

So now the hard part, placing ourselves into the narrative. But the hard part is really not that, it is admitting that. The hard part is falling onto the blade of the law and letting it cut us open and reveal all of who we are, why we act and how we act before God.

We live in a world that embraces individuality. It embraces our weaknesses as strengths lest we call them what they are, proof that we are part of a fallen world. We don't want to let go of self but we want to plunge headfirst into all the ways that celebrate self. It is part of the sickness of sin. We want Christ but maybe we want Christ only as long as he caters to me. Gives me the things that I want, serves me the way that makes me feel all warm and fuzzy.

Slowly but surely, worship, church, ministry, can become all about me. It can become about my ideas, my memories, my feelings and not about my God and connecting the whole of the body to him. We can so easily desire to make our relationship with God a relationship as long as it doesn't really get in the way of what the flesh wants to do. We don't want the sacrifice that comes with it, and when it calls for that, when it calls for a little trouble on behalf of a hurting brother or sister in faith, when it calls for a little extra difficulty or a little extra sacrifice, for forgiving the ones I don't want to forgive, respecting the ones I don't want to respect, recognizing our home looks nothing like the stuff that fills our garages, our rooms or even our hearts, well, it is easy to leave in search of something a little easier that requires a little less sacrifice. And the worst part of all of that is, we can so easily convince ourselves our leaving is in the name of God.

And that is just one aspect of our sinfulness, that is just the aspect that ties into our other readings. We give ourselves away to the filth of this world day in and day out. We go running to it for comfort far more regularly and with a lot more certainty. Instead of taking our worries and stress to God in prayer, sharing them with the one who completely cares about us body and soul, we have our vices and worldly ways of coping apart from Christ. Yes, we love Christ, but we want to share him with our many other loves.

And that would be reason enough for God to say "You don't want me? Fine. We will just go our separate ways." But he doesn't. He chases after us. He finds us in the midst of the valley of trouble and distress we have run to and he courts us all over again. He speaks to us in his newness and shows his love to us all over again. He expresses his commitment to us, a pledge of faithfulness. He never tires of loving us. He never tires of proclaiming himself to you.

Do you see his consistency, the beauty in his faithfulness? Do you see how unique his love is? It is so unique, there is almost a disconnect. It doesn't make sense, it doesn't seem that lovely, it seems hard, it seems like work. We fantasize over love and want it to be easy, we want it to be fun, we want it to be our joy, this doesn't seem like any of those things. But this is where we find Christ's heart for us because he loves you and me so much that despite what it may look like to us, showing over and over and over again in his word and sacraments that we are the focal point of his love is our

God's unique joy. It is the reminder we need, Jesus is our everything and we offer nothing to this relationship other than receiving the love given.

As the season of Epiphany draws to a close and we approach the reflective season of Lent, we must understand our Jesus. In fact, this is what the season of Epiphany is all about. It is about seeing the glory of Christ separate from the mountain of transfiguration. It is the glory in who he is, what makes him the perfect sacrifice, example, and gift giver. Christ shows his glory by leading us first into the desert, he opens our eyes to see how much we lack without him and there deprived of all hope and comfort, he gives everything and he gives it in abundance. He marries us, connects us to himself, gives us his name, so the shame of our adultery in our relationship is overwhelmed by the righteousness he gives and the justice he earned. Our life is no longer defined by our faithlessness, it is defined by his faithfulness. May you always know your Savior's love is for you, he rescued you from the depths of depravity and has placed his name on you. May we always love to hear the love story between us and Jesus that does more than just makes us feel good, but gives us eternal salvation and joy with him. 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](http://www.christcambridge.com)) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

**Prayer:**

We worship you, O Lord, for your great mercy and love. In that love, you did not withdraw from us because we have not shown your kind of heart toward you and those around us, but you revealed yourself to us that we might know you. You proclaimed the Father's message with your words and lived it with every aspect of your daily life. We thank you for your kindness to us. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to live that which you have spoken.

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." So spoke Peter when the crowds began to drift away from you because they did not like that which you spoke with authority. It is only by your grace that we do not do as the crowds did then and still do today. Continue in us the strength to hold fast to you. Give us also the courage and love to proclaim with authority that which you have revealed to us. You have warned us that there will be many who reject that message and who will be hostile to us because of it. But you have also promised that there will be those who through it find forgiveness, comfort, joy, and life. Enable us to be part of that blessing.

O Holy Spirit, you work to cause us to grow in spiritual knowledge so that we better understand our God and the height and depth and breadth of his love and wisdom and strength. Our sinful natures seek to take the good which you have given us and use it in ways that harm those for whom our Savior died. Fill us with humility and love as we exercise the

faith you have placed within us. Give us the ability to nurture others in their faith, to build one another up and not tear each other down, as we live out your Word in our lives.

Heavenly Father, you cause your sun to rise on the evil and on the good and send your rain on the righteous and unrighteous. We thank you for the recent rains which have brought some relief from the drought that has been plaguing Africa in recent years. Continue this blessing and do not let its benefits be erased by plagues of locusts which also regularly overrun this continent. Grant the cycle of the seasons necessary for the land to provide your bounty. May we view in the natural disasters that affect others the opportunities you give us to help those whom you love, and give us hearts that respond.

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

### *Private Petitions*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we bring these and all our requests and thanksgivings before you because our Savior Jesus 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: "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring" (Christian Worship #241)**