



Worship Folder for March 7, 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 | MARCH 7 – MARCH 14

TODAY	9:00am	Worship
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

Call Meeting There is a meeting this **Thursday, March 11 at 6:00pm** to extend a call for a teacher. Our first call was returned and so the process begins again. We would love your input and your involvement. Please make arrangements to attend.

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 and she will order it for you.

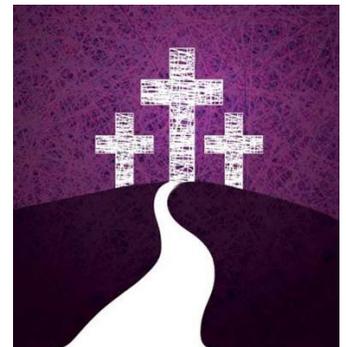
Available Flowers:

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.

Scrip Cards Physical scrip cards will be ordered by church and will also be available for pick-up at church. Order cards for places like Walmart, Target, Menards, Fleet Farm, Cabelas, Kwik Trip, Starbucks, Caribou and Cub. A percentage of the purchase of these traditional gift cards benefits our ministry at Christ. Since October, this program has raised over \$600! If you are interested in specific gift cards to other locations, please let us know and watch for your opportunity to grab one when they arrive.



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 – April 1 @ 6:30pm
Good Friday – April 2 @ 6:30pm
EASTER SUNDAY – April 4
7:00am & 9:00am

“Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: Tom Panning, Rick Weissenfluh, Sean Brown

Counters: Tom Panning, Rick Weissenfluh

Cleaners: Doug & Karen Gray & Craig & Julie Pasch

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn: “Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening” (Christian Worship #283)

(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 19

For the choir director. A psalm by David.

¹The heavens tell about the glory of God. The expanse of the sky proclaims the work of his hands. ²Day after day they pour out speech. Night after night they display knowledge. ³They do not speak. They say no words. Their voice is not heard. ⁴Their voice goes out into all the earth, and their word reaches the end of the world. God has pitched a tent for the sun in the heavens. ⁵It comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy. It celebrates like a champion who has run his race. ⁶It sets out from one end of the heavens. It runs until it reaches the other end. There is nowhere to hide from its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect. It revives the soul. The testimony of the LORD is trustworthy. It gives wisdom to the inexperienced. ⁸The precepts of the LORD are right. They give joy to the heart. The commandment of the LORD is bright. It gives light to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is pure. It stands forever. The just decrees of the LORD are truth. They are altogether righteous. ¹⁰They are more desirable than gold, even better than much pure gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the honeycomb.

¹¹Yes, by them your servant is warned. In keeping them there is great reward. ¹²Who can recognize his own errors? Declare me innocent of hidden sins. ¹³Restrain your servant also from deliberate sins. Do not let them rule over me. Then I will be blameless. Then I will be innocent of great rebellion. ¹⁴May the speech from my mouth and the thoughts in my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

The Jews were not really satisfied with the mirror of the Savior that they had in the temple. They wanted the repetition of the spectacular miracles of the Exodus, even though they knew that those miracles did not create a saving relationship with God. That happened only through the promise of the Savior in the Word and in bloody sacrifices that pictured his work. The Greeks wanted another Socrates or another Aristotle, even though a thousand philosophers who followed them could bring no peace to the conscience or reason for life. The salvation desperately needed by both Jews and Greeks is to be found only in submission to God's solution to our need, in the temple and wisdom of God Incarnate. We see it and receive it in the weakness of the cross and the power of the Word.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

²²Yes, Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14, 15)

People in Jesus' day seemed to assume that because they had the temple, the Word, the sacrifices, they had a license to do whatever they pleased, even in the temple. Not much has changed, has it? But Jesus would have

none of it. He is serious about his Word and about this house and what went on there. For the temple and its sacrifices were supposed to mirror what Jesus himself was: God's dwelling place on earth! Let no one think now that Jesus has lost any of his zeal for the house of the church and his sanctuary in the gospel (cf. Luther's Large Catechism, Third Commandment) which bears him and reveals him before the world. So great was his love that he gave himself to be destroyed; so great was his love that he came back in three days; so great is his love that he continues dwelling in his sanctuary of Word and sacrament to this day, and through them dwelling in us as his temples. What would he drive out of you today? The Old Testament lesson tells us.

Gospel Reading: John 2:13-22

¹³The Jewish Passover was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers sitting at tables. ¹⁵He made a whip of cords and drove everyone out of the temple courts, along with the sheep and oxen. He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those selling doves he said, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a place of business!"¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."¹⁸So the Jews responded, "What sign are you going to show us to prove you can do these things?"¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again." ²⁰The Jews said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple! And you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹But Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this. Then they believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said.

["Follow Me"](#)

Sermon on Psalm 19

Theme: "The Struggle. Empowered by God's Word"

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Theme: "The Struggle. Empowered by God's Word"

March 7, 2021

Are you sick of it? Are you sick of the struggles in your life and then also sick of the solution you are told again and again and yet you seem to be stuck in the same struggle and things just do not seem to be working out for you? I do not ask that question lightly. I do not ask it as some sort of gimmicky introduction. I ask it because I think it is a thought many Christians struggle with from time to time. I ask it because I know it is something I have struggled with in difficult times. It is hard to put into words but it is more that human concept that something is wrong so I need to do something about what is wrong, and well, sitting down and reading a book or listening to someone share some words with me just doesn't really seem like the best use of my time.

And before you think that is not you or you have not acted that way, just ponder for a few moments, this question. What is your motivation in going to God's Word or to hear God's Word? Sometimes, can it simply be that is just what we have been told we should do so we do it to sort of hedge our bets? I have tried everything else so I might as well add this to the list of things I have tried. Or maybe we go to God's word and page

through it waiting to find the solution to your struggle. Maybe we go to God's Word hoping to find the answer we would prefer to hear. We might not go to God's Word at all and instead, we just hope that if we live our life the way we think God would like us to live it God will put an end to our struggle. Do you think that if you add all the right elements to your life, church, family time, volunteer work, acts of kindness and a life free of actions that would give others reason to gossip, that if we do all the right stuff and make it look just right to God well then, God will smile upon you even though we have then made our faith about what our life looks like and not who our life rests on? It is one thing to be worn down by our struggles, it is completely another thing to expect a magic wand to be waved over them and to allow our frustration to build and to build against God without trying the remedy God gives to get through our struggle.

This year during the Sunday's of lent we are focusing on the struggles all Christians go through. Those struggles are different for each one of us and have varying degrees of intensity at different times in our life. They range from the struggles common to all sinners to the struggles unique to individuals and their families. Over time the struggles may change but as hard as it may be to believe, the solution does not. Today we focus on the way to get through our struggles, the way God freely gives to be empowered in our struggles and brothers and sisters, this means we must go back to God's Word. As we do, I pray God opens our eyes to see where we have fallen short but then powerfully lifts us up to endure the struggles before us by his Word. We go to that Word from Psalm 19:

For the choir director. A psalm by David. ¹The heavens tell about the glory of God. The expanse of the sky proclaims the work of his hands. ²Day after day they pour out speech. Night after night they display knowledge. ³They do not speak. They say no words. Their voice is not heard. ⁴Their voice goes out into all the earth, and their word reaches the end of the world. God has pitched a tent for the sun in the heavens. ⁵It comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy. It celebrates like a champion who has run his race. ⁶It sets out from one end of the heavens. It runs until it reaches the other end. There is nowhere to hide from its heat. ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect. It revives the soul. The testimony of the LORD is trustworthy. It gives wisdom to the inexperienced. ⁸The precepts of the LORD are right. They give joy to the heart. The commandment of the LORD is bright. It gives light to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is pure. It stands forever. The just decrees of the LORD are truth. They are altogether righteous. ¹⁰They are more desirable than gold, even better than much pure gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the honeycomb. ¹¹Yes, by them your servant is warned. In keeping them there is great reward. ¹²Who can recognize his own errors? Declare me innocent of hidden sins. ¹³Restrain your servant also from deliberate sins. Do not let them rule over me. Then I will be blameless. Then I will be innocent of great rebellion. ¹⁴May the speech from my mouth and the thoughts in my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

The psalms surrounding psalm 19 are pleas for God's deliverance from enemies as well as thanks for God giving deliverance and nearness. The words here come almost as a break in the action, a pause from it all if you will. It is break from everything and David simply stands in awe of God both in the world God created and how it funnels direction back to God and specifically his word. It praises God for using the created world which all must see because all live in it to point us the news it lacks, namely, the faithful love of our God revealed to us in the person of Jesus through the pages of his Word.

What is equally noteworthy is the descriptive words here in this lesson as well as the subject of those descriptions. Did you see where you and I come into play? The Law is perfect, it revives. The testimony is trustworthy, it gives wisdom. The precepts are right, they give joy. The commandment is bright, it gives light. The fear of the LORD is pure, it stands forever. The decrees are truth, all together righteous. They are more

desirable than gold, even the purest of gold, sweeter than honey, even the freshest of honey. It is possessed, not by us, but by the LORD, the God of covenant love.

Psalms 19 is a ballad about the beauty, fullness, and richness of God's Word. But did you see where you come into play? This is David, the one plagued by trouble, by enemies, by death in his family, by personal struggles and anguish and what is he concerned about God's Word doing? He is concerned about being warned. He is concerned about having his hidden sins, which by the way he knows exist, sins he does not want to acknowledge or sins his pride does not let him acknowledge, he is concerned about having those fleshed out and brought to the light of day. He is concerned about having his speech be brought up to the level of the very Word he has the privilege of going to. In short, he is concerned, and this should be us too, of letting God's word do its primary job of condemning him in his sin and lifting him back up with the gospel. It is amazing to consider and ponder!

It is amazing to consider and ponder because that is often not what we want out of God's word, is it? Instead, we want God's word to fix and solve my problems now. We want the parts of it that support my political superhero and condemn the one I am against. We want it to make me feel good about the way that I think, the way that I act, or to condemn the sins I do not struggle with. But often, we do not want it to condemn me. It is not so fun to go. It is easy not to see or for that matter, to not want to see God's Word as GOD'S Word. The words of a perfect, holy God, words we should desire and love, treasure, and taste.

Yes, we do not know what we have in God's Word, but God does and that is why he gives it to you and me. You see, it is God's word and as such it is going to accomplish the purposes God desires. It would be the epitome of foolishness to expect sinners to always go to God's Word with pure motivations and the fact of the matter is we often don't. But brothers and sisters in Christ, be comforted in this, God comes to you in his word with perfect motivations. He comes to you to revive your soul, to breath life back into it. He comes to you through his word to give you wisdom and joy. He comes to you to open your eyes to see with his truths that are eternal, truths with mean eternity for you because they are truths about the love of your God for you, love that took sins sacrifice, love that struggled right along side you and me to win you back from sin, death, and the devil. He comes to you through his word for the purpose of making you blameless before him, so that despite the troubles and struggles we face, that is one thing we will never have to doubt. So may you be empowered in your struggles through the Word of God, he is your rock, consistently the same and by your side, he is your redeemer taking all we are not, all that we lack, all of what makes us weak, and makes us strong in him. God knows exactly what you have in his word and may we be lead to value it for what it is and be lifted up in our struggles to see all that we have already been given and all that is secured for us in Christ. 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: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give you our heartfelt thanks for the blessing of bringing us to a new day. We rejoice in all that you have done for us. You have supplied our needs, smiled upon our labors, and kept us and our loved ones safe. You have been with us in the trying or difficult times to ease the burden or to give us strength. Most importantly, you have assured us day by day that you love us and have forgiven all our sins.

C: Increase in us the desire to live in obedience to your will as our expression of thanks for all that you have done for us. Enable us to walk in the way of your commandments.

L: Lord Jesus, we marvel at the love and dedication you had for your Father's house. Continue to transform us to be more like you so that our churches may always be for us a reminder that the "dwelling of God is with men (Rev. 21:3)." Let all that we do in and through our house of worship proclaim that message in the community.

C: Cause many to seek you where you make yourself known so that, in the end, you may welcome them into the eternal dwelling place you have prepared for us.

L: O Holy Spirit, pour out your gifts on people in all their various circumstances in our society. Give our political leaders on the local, state and national levels the ability to lead and rule wisely, especially when those they serve do not give them the respect they are to have. Bless fathers and mothers that they may know God's love and wisdom and share it with their children. Be with those who are still struggling financially so that they learn to put their trust in you.

C: Be with us so that we may be able to follow the example of our Savior who trusted his Father's will and wisdom and love even when it meant that he had to suffer and die. Help us to live in the righteousness to which he has called us.

L: In the hymn "Amazing Grace," O Lord, we sing the words, "I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see." We thank you for our synod's Mission to the Visually Impaired which serves those who have lost their physical vision by helping to provide materials that those who cannot see might have their spiritual eyes opened to see your glory through your Word. Technology has changed the way that this ministry does its work, but not the need for it.

C: Move the hearts of your people to continue to support this ministry which receives no direct funding from the Synod. With our generous gifts may it in the years ahead keep up its work of bringing your Gospel to the many who can't see it, but need to know and hear it.

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: "Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go" (Christian Worship #456)