

*Worship Folder for March 14, 2021*

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

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

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# 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 | MARCH 14 – MARCH 21

<b>TODAY</b>	9:00am	Worship
	10:30am	Board of Education 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	Midweek Lenten Worship
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00am	Worship
	1:00pm	Youth Outing at the Springborn's

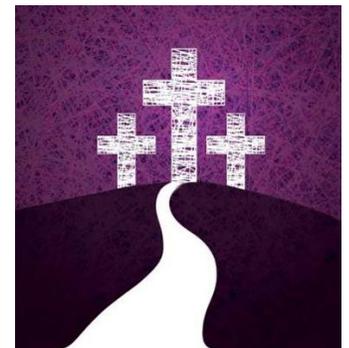
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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.

**Call Extended** Our congregation has extended a Divine Call to Debra Bahlmann from Grace Lutheran Preschool in Prairie du Chien. Please keep Debra in your prayers as she considers where God can best use her gifts!

**Church Directory** That's a WRAP! Thank you to everyone who participated and helped to make sure that our directory is complete. A special thank you to Karen Panning for her organization, flexibility, and eye for detail which helped this process go so smoothly!

**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:** Brian Klawiter, Paul Sorgert

**Cleaners:** Paul & Joella Sorgert, Shawn & Sarah Motl

### Worship this Lenten Season

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

## **MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS**

**Opening Hymn:** “God Loved the World So that He Gave” (Christian Worship #391)

*(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 5

*For the choir director For flutes. A psalm by David.*

<sup>1</sup>Turn your ear to my words, O LORD. Understand me when I sigh. <sup>2</sup>Pay attention to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. <sup>3</sup>LORD, in the morning you hear my voice. In the morning I lay out my requests in front of you, and I watch for your answer.

<sup>4</sup>For you are not a God who takes pleasure in evil. With you the wicked cannot dwell. <sup>5</sup>The arrogant cannot stand before your eyes. You hate all evildoers. <sup>6</sup>You put to death those who speak lies. The LORD is disgusted with bloodthirsty, deceitful men.

<sup>7</sup>But as for me, by your great mercy I will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple with reverence for you. <sup>8</sup>LORD, lead me in your righteousness. Because of those who slander me, make your way straight before me.

<sup>9</sup>Nothing reliable comes out of their mouth. From within them comes destruction. Their throat is an open grave. With their tongue they flatter. <sup>10</sup>Declare them guilty, O God! Let them fall because of their own schemes. For their many treacherous deeds banish them, because they have rebelled against you.

<sup>11</sup>But let all who take refuge in you be glad. Let them sing for joy forever. You cover them with protection, so those who love your name rejoice in you. <sup>12</sup>Yes, you bless the righteous, LORD. You surround them with your favor as a shield.

*Who could ever finish preaching on this text! Because of Christ's death and resurrection God sees us as already in heaven! Could anything be more opposite than being dead in transgressions, our natural state? The grace is incomparable. By definition it cannot be earned or deserved. Look to the cross and then live in the works which God has prescribed and prepared in the law, works of obedience to him and love to our neighbor. For our problem has been solved. There is nothing else for us to be concerned about than looking to the cross and living as those who are already as good as in heaven. To murmur and complain, to live as though we had yet to find peace or purpose, help or happiness, that is all as silly as it is perverse. In Christ we already have it all. Therefore, even in the middle of Lent, Laetare!*

## Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:4-10

<sup>4</sup>But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! <sup>6</sup>He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

*How hideous that snake on the pole! It was a reminder of the pain inflicted by the snake's bite and even more a reminder of the cause of the snake's bite—sin. Now we, too, look in Lent at something initially hideous. Christ on the cross is horrible to look at since his suffering is what we deserve to suffer and a reminder of the greatness of our sin and guilt. But only at the cross do we even begin to grasp the depth also of God's love. He himself turns our eyes to that tree and gives us the balm of healing that lasts into eternity. In the Bible light is often a metaphor for truth and joy. Therefore Laetare! For this is the truth that brings pure joy. There is no other balm for sinners. Jesus is not just one religious leader among many. He is the only Savior and the only possible Savior. Those who seek another will feel the full fury of God for rejecting so great a salvation, so loving a Savior.*

**Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

**“Let Me Learn of Jesus” LAPPY #175**

**Sermon on Psalm 5**

**Theme: “The Struggle with Guilt”**

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Theme: “The Struggle With Guilt”

March 14, 2021

Do not worry the Bible tells me and I worry. I cannot make God's Word work in a heart and yet so often I think it is all up to me and I must be doing something wrong. You shall have no God's before me God tells me and yet I place my priorities over and above God's. Love your neighbor and yet I try to pick and choose to love the neighbors who are easiest to love and distance myself from those who are not so easy. Husbands love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her and yet I often treat my wife as if she is supposed to give herself up for me. I have not turned away from Godless chatter but engaged in it, I have been ashamed of the gospel and shied away from opportunities to share my faith. I have not let my yes be yes and my no be no, I have made promises I have not kept. Guilt is an easy thing to come by because this list is just scratching the tip of the iceberg of my heart. I have failed my God, failed his people, failed my neighbor, and failed my

family and I, as a pastor, am supposed to live a life worthy of the calling I have received, I am to watch my life and doctrine closely, to set an example for God's people. Brothers and sisters, a wretch stands before you today drowning in guilt.

And I may be assuming too much, but maybe many of you struggle with the same feeling. Maybe you are haunted by past mistakes, the sins of your youth. Maybe you struggle with how you are raising or how you raised your children. Maybe you are sickened by all that you missed out on in your family's life in pursuit of your career or in pursuit of a deeper bank account. Maybe you struggle with some of the same things as me or maybe you struggle with not feeling guilty over your sin. Maybe it is something I did not mention but it hangs over you like a cloud and you cannot escape it.

Guilt is powerful, it can motivate someone like no other, believe me, I know. Guilt can keep a person down because it makes them feel unworthy or ill-equipped. Guilt can smash a confidence, it can wreck a life, it can devastate someone's health. It is a struggle we can place on others without knowing it through harsh and uncaring words. How guilty are you? Do you struggle with guilt? Today, we continue our look at struggle in the psalms with Psalm 5. As we turn to it to aid in our study this morning, notice the two groups the Psalm brings up, those who are guilty and those who are not. I pray we may be reminded which group we fall into this morning and are blessed by God's declaration of the guilty but also the guiltless. We listen as God speaks through his Word:

For the choir director. For flutes. A psalm by David. <sup>1</sup> Turn your ear to my words, O LORD. Understand me when I sigh. <sup>2</sup> Pay attention to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. <sup>3</sup> LORD, in the morning you hear my voice. In the morning I lay out my requests in front of you, and I watch for your answer. <sup>4</sup> For you are not a God who takes pleasure in evil. With you the wicked cannot dwell. <sup>5</sup> The arrogant cannot stand before your eyes. You hate all evildoers. <sup>6</sup> You put to death those who speak lies. The LORD is disgusted with bloodthirsty, deceitful men. <sup>7</sup> But as for me, by your great mercy I will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple with reverence for you. <sup>8</sup> LORD, lead me in your righteousness. Because of those who slander me, make your way straight before me. <sup>9</sup> Nothing reliable comes out of their mouth. From within them comes destruction. Their throat is an open grave. With their tongue they flatter. <sup>10</sup> Declare them guilty, O God! Let them fall because of their own schemes. For their many treacherous deeds banish them, because they have rebelled against you. <sup>11</sup> But let all who take refuge in you be glad. Let them sing for joy forever. You cover them with protection, so those who love your name rejoice in you. <sup>12</sup> Yes, you bless the righteous, LORD. You surround them with your favor as a shield.

Is David being ignorant or is he plain blind? David breaks down people into two groups the guilty and the righteous. He places himself into the "righteous" group. But look at what makes these guilty people guilty. They are evil, arrogant, ones who speak lies, their tongue's speak flattering words without actions to back them up. If you are feeling at all nervous, David goes on to plead to God that he would banish them because they rebelled against God. David pleads that God would let them fall because of their own schemes. I do not know about you, but I know I could and should easily fall into this group. Everything David brings up for God to be against, I can easily find myself guilty.

The fact of the matter is the devil works hard to make us feel part of this group. He works hard to make us feel unlovable. He works hard as he whispers in our ears to remind us of our sinfulness, all the things we have done in secret, all the things we have done to oppose Christ and his work, to pass on that bit of gossip, to give into that laziness, to join in with the crowd and tear down our neighbor. He works hard to turn our focus inward so that it overwhelms and controls us. He works hard to do this because when he succeeds in having us

despair in our guilt or to even be motivated by it. Christ gets pushed further and further out of the picture and I become centered more and more. There is no doubt about it, the devil is an expert at his craft, and he will even use our own knowledge of our sinfulness to despair of our salvation or to compensate for our guilt our way and not God's way.

But then there is group 2, namely, the righteous. David obviously places himself here. Isn't that going to far in the other direction? Isn't that being ignorant of sin, blind to it or even wrongfully prideful?

If you noticed, David started off this Psalm essentially pleading with God to hear him while at the same time acknowledging God for who he is while also expressing confidence God would hear him. But his reason for confidence in God hearing him seems to be based on his lack of evil. That is until we go a bit further and the light begins to come on as to the reason for David's confidence. Just listen to the way he talks: "by your great mercy I will enter your house", "LORD, lead me in your righteousness", and he closes the Psalm out saying "But let all who take refuge in you be glad. Let them sing for joy forever. You cover them with protection, so those who love your name rejoice in you. <sup>12</sup>Yes, you bless the righteous, LORD. You surround them with your favor as a shield."

Did you notice what separates David from group 1, the guilty group? Did you notice who shut the Devil's mouth, answered his accusations? It was not David but Christ! While the Devil works hard to make us despair, to make us feel guilty, Christ has already succeeded in making us righteous. Despair has no place in David's relationship with God because there is nothing to despair of Christ has taken all guilt and given all his righteousness. He does not assault us with accusations, but he covers us with protection.

What David is expressing shows the path to conquer guilt. But it is not a path we can walk on our own. To see that, we need to understand what David is expressing concerning his confidence in spite of his sin, in spite of the guilt he could so easily be plagued by. Consider for a moment an illustration very familiar to me currently but one that is hopefully not lost on you. It is that of a father holding the hand of his child as she drags and wobbles her way to her first steps. She cannot take a single step apart from his grip on her, she would fall to the ground. While that is true, do not think for one second she is not the one doing the walking. You can hear her excitement over it in her excited breaths and as she makes those little feet go as fast as she is able despite the clumsiness that may be there. And can you see the smile and the focus on the father's face? The pride in his daughter or son? Just think of the places those feet will take her, he thinks! There is no guilt in the daughter's mind over the fact that she can't walk like her Father. There is pure joy along with little fingers that have a vice like lock on those of her dad.

Brothers and sister's in Christ, that is the key to the struggle with guilt. When we focus on the "I" or "me" in what I have done, guilt is the only option. It is the only option because I am guilty, I am battered and barraged by the devil, this world, and my own sinful flesh. But when we see how God allows a knowledge of those sins to live in me or to understand God even allows those enemies to assault me, not for the purpose of laying another layer of guilt and failure on me, but to teach me to learn how important it is to hang on for dear life to my Father in heaven, to teach me to hang onto the gospel. It is then that guilt melts away because Jesus has taken it all. It is then I am empowered properly because I see the look on my heavenly Father's face and his love for his child. Brothers and sisters, this truth flips satan flat on his back, empowers us in the struggle against guilt and returns us confidently to our God again and again when we struggle. Simply put, may our guilt and all that comes from it be replaced with gladness and rejoicing in Christ. 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: O Lord, you have promised that you will fill us with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. We thank and praise you for the taste of that future joy that you give us already now. You assure us that you have called us to be your sons and daughters through Jesus. You remind us that the difficulties we face in life are not indications our status has changed, but are only the disciplines you send that we might grow in our faith.

**C: Let the joy of our salvation be that which overflows in our lives so that we may bring its blessing to others.**

L: Gracious God and Savior, we rejoice in the honor you have bestowed on us by making us your workmanship. You have transformed us from our former sinful state to one in which we are able to serve you in all that we do. Give us the insight to see that whatever we do in you, whether at home, at work, at school or in church, is a good work by which we serve you and those around us.

**C: Supply us with the spiritual and physical strength we need to bring to reality that which you want us to be doing. May our lives bring you the praise you so richly deserve.**

L: O Holy Spirit, we see so many people in this world who do not yet know the true God or the forgiveness and eternal life that is theirs in Jesus. Some have never heard your Word. Some are like Nicodemus who thought he knew the Word quite well and yet didn't really know it at all.

**C: Pour out your blessing on all such people that they might be brought out of the darkness of their sin and unbelief and into the light of your truth. Enable us to be ones through whom you carry out that work.**

L: Triune God, we ask your blessing on people throughout the world who are facing difficulties we can't begin to imagine: drought and famine in regions of Africa, the barbarity of unending war in the Middle East, the scourge of child pornography found around the world, the task of trying to rebuild homes and lives that have been destroyed by storms or other natural events. Let them know your peace, your protection, your strength.

**C: Keep us mindful of the truth that it is only because of your undeserved love that we do not find ourselves in their circumstances. Fill us with your compassion that we may assist them as our resources allow.**

L: Give ear, O Lord, also to our private petitions.

L: We thank you, Lord, that you have heard and answered all the prayers we have offered to you. In the knowledge and confidence that you will continue to do the same we bring before you these words in the name of our Savior 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: "By Grace I'm Saved" (Christian Worship #384)**