

Worship Folder for March 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 | MARCH 21 – MARCH 28

TODAY	9:00am	Worship
	11:00pm	Youth Outing at the Springborn's
MONDAY	6:00pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom - <i>Wherever Love May Lead</i>)
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship

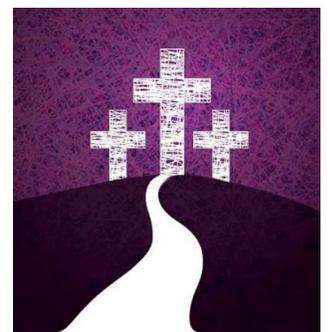
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Return to NORMAL? Our Church Council has approved a plan to begin returning to a more normal Sunday morning schedule. In April, we will resume our two **Communion Services** (1st and 3rd Sundays) and will begin returning elements of the liturgy back into our services. Additionally, beginning **Sunday, April 11**, a brief (20-30 min) **Family Bible Class** will be offered following services. We also hope to offer an outdoor fellowship opportunity (limited to coffee; weather permitting) following services if there is willingness to help set up.

ShopWithScrip Did you check out the **Scrip Cards** last week? We can 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, please let Shawn Motl know and he will gladly add them to his purchase list! **We plan to have cards available for purchase the 1st Sunday of each month.**

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!

Use your GIFTS! Do you enjoy being outside? Do you have a green thumb? Do you have the ability to share some time? We are looking for individuals interested in helping to maintain church's landscaping. If you have an interest in this, please speak with Brian Klawiter or Pastor Biebert. Thank you!



Take a PEEK at next WEEK!

“Here am I. Send me!”
Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: Tom Panning, Rick Weissenfluh, Sean Brown
Counters: Barry Springborn, Brian Merrifield
Cleaners: Phyllis Gallus, Rick & Cindy Weissenfluh

Worship this Lenten Season

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: “My Song Is Love Unknown” (Christian Worship #110 vs. 1-3, 6-7)

(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 143

A psalm by David.

¹ LORD, hear my prayer. Give ear to my cry for mercy. In your faithfulness, answer me in your righteousness. ² Do not bring charges against your servant, because no one living can be righteous before you.

³ For the enemy pursues my soul. He crushes my life to the ground. He makes me dwell in dark places like those long dead, ⁴ so my spirit grows faint inside me. Within me my heart is devastated.

⁵ I remember the days of long ago. I meditate on all your works, and I consider what your hands have done. ⁶ I spread out my hands to you. My soul thirsts for you like a weary land.

⁷ Hurry! Answer me, LORD. My spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I will be like those who go down to the pit. ⁸ Let me hear about your mercy in the morning, for I trust in you. Teach me the way that I should go, for I lift up my soul to you. ⁹ Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD, for I hide myself in you. ¹⁰ Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your good Spirit lead me on level ground. ¹¹ For the sake of your name, O LORD, preserve my life. In your righteousness, bring me out of trouble. ¹² In your mercy, wipe out my enemies, and destroy all who threaten my life, for I am your servant.

Let no one think that the suffering of Christ was easy. It was very real indeed. His cries for deliverance were not fully answered until his resurrection on Easter Sunday when with both natures he showed himself triumphant. While enduring that suffering what did he think about? He thought about sinners; he thought about you and about me! Out of love for you, the Father did not answer his cries at once. The Son did not cut short the time of his anguish because he did not want you and me to suffer what he was suffering. By his patient endurance and humiliation he became our perfect Savior. To us the joy that Jesus expresses in the Gospel lesson and the anguish evidenced in this reading seem incongruous and mutually exclusive. But to Jesus the two are inseparably linked by the end result our salvation!

Second Lesson: Hebrews 5:7-9

⁷ In the days of his flesh, he offered prayers and pleas with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. ⁹ After he was brought to his goal, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

We properly distinguish between Christ's state of humiliation and his state of exaltation. But on this Sunday Jesus makes these astonishing declarations: He sees his glory as beginning with his ultimate humiliation. He has come to suffer. He has come to die. As horrible as that will be, and as deeply as he will feel it all, he looks ahead to the fruit of his Passion (traditionally one of the names for this Sunday is Passion Sunday). And what is the fruit of his Passion? That he can finally leave and be rid of us and all our foolishness and perversity? No, not at all! It is rather that by his cross he may draw us to himself! That is his glory! Can you think of anything more

worthy of your attention this week? The other traditional name for this Sunday is Judica; it is the Sunday of judgment on which Christ is judged along with the devil and the world—all three are condemned. Christ is condemned for us that the devil may be condemned forever and lose his claim on us.

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it continues to be one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵ Anyone who loves his life destroys it. And the one who hates his life in this world will hold on to it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, let him follow me. And where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. ²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, this is the reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!” A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice was not for my sake but for yours. ³¹ “Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

["City on a Hill"](#)

Sermon on Psalm 143

Theme: “The Struggle is Relentless”

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children' Message](#)

Theme: “The Struggle is Relentless”

March 21, 2021

Worn down. Beaten. Crushed. Weary. Tired. Maybe that is how you feel after going through life with COVID for a full year now. Maybe that is how you feel as a Christian in a world growing more and more anti-Christian each day. Maybe it is how you feel due to the current state of your life, business at home, at work, on top of all the other things you should be doing or could be doing but you are not. Maybe that is how you feel due to the personal struggle you are going through right now or maybe how you felt in the past or maybe how you will feel one day in the future. It is a feeling that leaves us empty and exhausted.

It is a feeling we can all struggle with sometimes, a feeling that leaves us wishing for it all to end because there seems to be no end in sight. The very moment we feel we have solved one piece of the puzzle; another problem takes its place. It can feel like life is just a series of fires in need of putting out. It can feel like we are just surviving life more than we are living it. Have you ever felt this way? Do you currently feel this way?

Today we continue our look at struggle as we look at how the relentless the struggle can be and feel at times. But along with just recognizing the struggle to be difficult and trying, it is important to also understand the role God plays in our struggle, where the love of the Father is in our struggle, how Christ stands by our side in it and how the Holy Spirit empowers us through it by God's Word and Sacrament. So may we go to God's Word understanding how relentless the struggle is but walk away with the truth it proclaims to us, the strength it gives and greater understanding for our living in struggle. We listen as God speaks to us through his Word found in Psalm 143:

A psalm by David. ¹ LORD, hear my prayer. Give ear to my cry for mercy. In your faithfulness, answer me in your righteousness. ² Do not bring charges against your servant, because no one living can be righteous before you.

³ For the enemy pursues my soul. He crushes my life to the ground. He makes me dwell in dark places like those long dead, ⁴ so my spirit grows faint inside me. Within me my heart is devastated.

⁵ I remember the days of long ago. I meditate on all your works, and I consider what your hands have done.

⁶ I spread out my hands to you. My soul thirsts for you like a weary land.

⁷ Hurry! Answer me, LORD. My spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I will be like those who go down to the pit. ⁸ Let me hear about your mercy in the morning, for I trust in you. Teach me the way that I should go, for I lift up my soul to you. ⁹ Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD, for I hide myself in you.

¹⁰ Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your good Spirit lead me on level ground. ¹¹ For the sake of your name, O LORD, preserve my life. In your righteousness, bring me out of trouble. ¹² In your mercy, wipe out my enemies, and destroy all who threaten my life, for I am your servant.

David is in a dark place. He is crushed, devastated. He feels isolated in darkness. It feels as though his spirit is nearing death. God cannot move fast enough in David's mind. God used King David to write many of the psalms. God also allowed David to go through much difficulty in his life, some of David's difficulty was self-inflicted, some was not. The point, however, is that David knew how tiring struggle could be because he was physically afflicted by it, but David was also not afraid to attempt to tire out God with his prayers.

It is also not like the psalms are a record of all of David's prayers, in fact, in the psalms we do have from David, there is a lot to suggest this is just a window into a fraction of David's prayer life. That thought is what could naturally bring up the question, then why does he go to God? It hardly seems like his prayers are ever heard let alone answered. So many of David's prayers have to do with his struggles and asking God for help. So many of David's prayers seem like they fall on deaf ears. But this is why it is important to understand what David was asking God for, especially why he felt confident going to God again and again even though he saw no physical change in his current situation.

But what was David asking God for, why did he go to God? Yes, he does ask God for help with his specific problem, here in psalm 143, that problem is help from his enemies. But notice why he has confidence is asking for help because that is of vital importance. It has nothing to do with David. It has nothing to do with how much he has done or how good he has been. He has confidence because of God's righteousness and because of God's faithfulness. But even more than this, notice what else he asks for. Starting at verse 7 David states: "7 Hurry! Answer me, LORD. My spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I will be like those who go down to the pit. 8 Let me hear about your mercy in the morning, for I trust in you. Teach me the way that I should go, for I lift up my soul to you."

Isn't that both perplexing and at the same time amazing? Ultimately, God's mercy has nothing to do with problems in the here and now. The way we should go is clearly stated by God himself to be the difficult way,

the narrow way, a way few tread for that very reason. But this is the way David pleads for God to lead him down.

You see, David desperately desired immediate help from his struggles. This is undeniable. But more than that, David knew he needed God's strength. The truth is, a relentless struggle is difficult, but it is not just difficult because of the physical struggle itself, it is most difficult because how easily we can allow it to get in between us and our God.

It is easy to view God in our life with a role like that of a spotter for a weightlifter, an assistant in a time of great need. We will do all the work until we need him. Then when we cannot take the weight when we are in danger of being crushed, we can just call on him and the weight will be lifted off and we can go on with our day. Though we often treat him this way, God is so much more. Our Savior Jesus knows the struggle and he knows what it is to drink the cup all the way to the bottom.

God is there to walk with us through the struggle, to guide us through the struggle, to show us him through the struggle because as we are brought to God's Word amid a relentless struggle, we are led by the Holy Spirit to see and understand our Jesus better. It is in the heart of struggle we can learn lessons he proclaims to us we would not be able to learn otherwise. It is in affliction we are able to uniquely be drawn closer to the one who saw glory in undergoing our punishment and our pain as he drew the attention of our enemies' eyes and their attacks away from us so their fury was focused directly on him. At the same time, drawing the attention of his Father in heaven so that the full brunt of his righteous judgement over sin, all our sin, was exacted on Christ.

Finally, it can be helpful to understand the answer David was looking for in this prayer we have before us this morning. What did he desire? What did he view as a check in the box of prayer answered? I pray you see it was not immediate relief from the physical enemies before him. They were not what made his struggle relentless. Rather, it was a desire that God would lead him to walk at his side. It was a prayer for understanding of what God's faithfulness looks like. It was a prayer to see the level ground cleared before him by his God. In short, it was a desire to see what God had already done for all of David's enemies, which included his own sinful nature, he had rendered them harmless and had showed his mercy to David.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, may God lead each of us to this struggle. The struggle to see our God more clearly in every situation. The only way to overcome this struggle is by returning to God and the mercy he pours out to us in Word and Sacrament again and again. There we see what will come of the devil and all his attacks. There we see this world has been brought to judgement and there we see the death of our sin. This is the only way we are brought to real peace. It is the only way the struggle with all its intensity is lifted off our shoulders because it is only there, we are shown on whose shoulders the struggle has truly been placed, Christ and him crucified. God grant in us the desire relentlessly struggle in him. 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) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

Prayer:

L: Lord, it's the beginning of another week and we have come to you to be refreshed. You know that life on this earth can be wearying. You have provided us with many joys and for these we give you our heartfelt thanks. But there have also been the challenges, the struggles, the disappointments that are present in life because of our own sinfulness, the unrighteousness of the world in which we live, and the wickedness of Satan who would like to claim us as his own.

C: We praise you for blessing us with your Word and Spirit this morning. You have reminded us once again that your love for us is constant, that your blessings will be ever present, and that you yourself will be with us every day as our Refuge, our Rock, and our Redeemer.

L: Heavenly Father, we look around us in this world and we are reminded of your glory and your goodness. We marvel at the delicacy of a flower you have created and the intricacy of the relationships among all the living and non-living things in creation. We stand in awe of the majesty of the mountains you formed and the might of the ocean as it thunders against the shore.

C: And then we remember that you have given it all to us that we might be blessed through it. Let our thanks be evident as we use all that you have provided for your glory, and find freedom from the anxiety that would otherwise beset us.

L: As beautiful as this world is, do not let us be beguiled by it so that we focus more on it than we do on you. Keep us on guard against the one who is in this world whose desire is to lead us away from you. Strengthen us to stand firm when we endure persecution because we follow you.

C: Give us a spirit of humility that willingly accepts whatever roles you assign us at the various stages of our lives. Let us be ones through whom you are praised.

L: Lord of the church, we thank for the blessings you have poured out on our pre-school, especially during this last year as we dealt with COVID. But there are still opportunities to perhaps expand our ministry in the future. It is easy for us as we consider our resources to have the thoughts of the disciples as they considered your instruction to feed a crowd of five thousand, "Lord we have five loaves and two fish, but what are they among so many?" We therefore pray that you would give us an understanding of what you would have us do, wisdom to use wisely what you have supplied, and trust that you will provide what we need to accomplish your plans for us.

C: Our prayer is not only for our local ministry but those throughout our district and the synod. Be with the pre-schools and elementary schools that implant in the hearts of your lambs the truths of your Word. Bless the ministry of our Lutheran High Schools as they equip young people for Christians lives in the secular world. Smile upon the

students and professors at our ministerial training schools as they equip the next generation of those who will be leaders in your church.

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

L: We thank you, Father in heaven, that you have heard and answered all the prayers we have brought before you. In the knowledge and confidence that you will continue to do the same we bring these supplications to you 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.

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: “Drawn to the Cross” (Christian Worship Supplement #387)