



# Hope

FOR FEAR & SADNESS

*Worship Folder for April 11, 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 | APRIL 11 – APRIL 18

<b>TODAY</b>	9:00am	Worship
<b>MONDAY</b>	5:00pm	Adult Discipleship Meeting
	5:30pm	Church Council Meeting
	6:30pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom - <i>Time: It's a Gift</i> )
<b>THURSDAY</b>	6:00 – 7:00pm	Preschool Open House
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:30am	Information Meeting

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Information Meeting** Prepare for our upcoming Voters' Meeting by joining us for the Information meeting next Sunday, April 18. Also, please contact Pastor or any council member with questions, concerns, or comments.

**Voters' Meeting** Plan to join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at the Voters' Meeting on **Sunday, April 25**. Your involvement in church decisions and processes is so important!

**Family Bible Class** Join us **today** following worship for our first Family Bible Class! (There will be no Bible Class on the April 18 or 25 due to Congregational meetings, but will resume on May 2)

**Midweek Zoom Bible Class** Classes will resume on Wednesdays starting April 21 at 6:30pm. As we focus on 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy our study, our theme is "Be Strong".



**Women's Bible Study** Our Women's Bible Study, which meets via Zoom on Monday evenings at 6:00pm, will begin a new study in 4 weeks entitled **Love Rules: A Study of the Ten Commandments**. Please plan to join us! Let Cliss know that you would like to participate and purchase the study. The cost of the book is \$11.49.

## Add to the Beauty!

We need a team of people to share the joy of maintaining our church property! We have been blessed with a large lot, shrubs, trees, and flower beds. As the weather allows, we will spruce up the beds, trim bushes, and plant annuals. We will need helpers to water as the need arises and would love to share this work with a team of volunteers! Please let Brian Klawiter or Pastor Biebert know if you have a desire to get your hands dirty!

## Take a PEEK at next WEEK!

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

**Ushers:** Harlan Green, Richard Green, Craig Smith  
**Counters:** Brian Klawiter & Paul Sorgert  
**Cleaners:** David & Rebecca Foss, Steve & Jane Owens



# COMMON SERVICE

*This liturgy, found on page 15 in the red hymnal, is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.*

## PASTOR'S WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

**COME, YOU FAITHFUL, RAISE THE STRAIN | #142**

*Please Stand.*

## GATHERING

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sings) **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

L: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie Eleison*



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

## ABSOLUTION

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sings) **Amen.**

L: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## GLORY BE TO GOD

*Gloria in Excelsis*



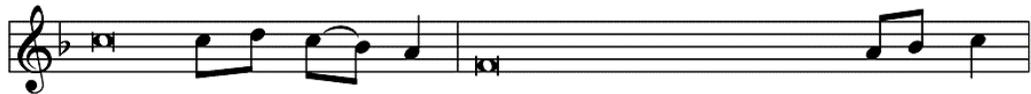
C: **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**



**We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,**



**we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,**



**God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;**



**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the**



**sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the**



**sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of**



**God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;**



**you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,**



**are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

C: (sings) **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C: (sings) **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

# THE WORD

## FIRST READING

**Acts 3:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> And on the basis of faith in his name, it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. <sup>17</sup> “Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just like your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But in this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, <sup>20</sup> so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

**Psalm 16 | pg. 68**



*Those who walk in the presence of the Lord walk the path of life.*

## SECOND READING

**1 John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the God who has given birth also loves one who has been born of him. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: that we keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> because everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is the one who overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

<sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He did not come by the water alone but by the water and by the blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**John 20:29b**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

*Please stand.*

L: Our Savior meets us in the Gospel according to John 20.



**C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!**

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." <sup>22</sup> After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

<sup>26</sup> After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## APOSTLE'S CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## YOUTH HYMN

**CHRIST IS RISEN**

## SERMON Acts 3:12-20

### Hope for Fear and Sadness: “Resurrection Provides Refreshing”

What refreshes you? Maybe your mind jumps to a cool drink on a hot summer day. You have just gotten done taking the lawn mower for a walk. You are covered in sweat and grass clippings. Your face is red, your tongue is dry, and you sit down in the shade and drink a cool glass of water while a breeze gently blows on you. Refreshing.

Maybe it is more of a stress thing. A deadline is coming and there is lots of work to be done. It feels like there are too many moving parts, too much to accomplish in the amount of time you have to accomplish them. You have stress from this compiled on top of everything else going on with life. But at the end of it all a vacation is waiting. As stressful as it all is, you successfully navigate through it all and find yourself in full relaxation mode at the end. Refreshing.

Today we begin a new series entitled “Hope for Fear and Sadness”. Its focus will center on the hope, joy and certainty which are ours in God’s perfect promises. While there are certainly aspects of the resurrection which point us to blessing on the future, today, we begin this discussion by looking at the real refreshment Easter gives us right now. May it be our prayer that our time in God’s Word today would open our eyes to the refreshment God’s Easter truth provides for us in this moment as it points us to God’s strength apart from our own.

<sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> And on the basis of faith in his name, it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. <sup>17</sup> “Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just like your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But in this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, <sup>20</sup> so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.

Do you ever consider Easter to be refreshing? Maybe it serves as a nice break from the dreariness of lent as it gives a joy and brightness to our worship, we put off for a time during the Lenten season. Maybe it serves to signal spring is sprung and so there is a joy within it that seems to focus us more on life here and days getting longer, the sun shining brighter, and new life and green grass filling our eyes and ears.

But do you ever view Easter as a field once filled with hate and bloodshed? A place where a fierce battle once was fought but is now a place where wildlife flourishes, grass grows, and peace is found? Maybe a place a little like this? (Picture of Gettysburg) Imagine if someone just saw this picture without any knowledge of what took place here. Sure, they might think it is beautiful, but there would be nothing that would differentiate it from any other picture of just as nice of a sunset with perhaps a more beautiful landscape framing it. But there is extra beauty in this picture for someone who understands exactly what took place in this dirt as brother fought against brother, as heels were dug into this dirt amidst the ugly gore of battle and despite all of that took place here, there is now peace and learning that can take place from what was ugly.

On a much grander scale, this is how Peter knew the peace of Easter firsthand for himself and it is also how he explains and applies it to the hearts of his audience here in Acts, and, through Peter’s preaching, it is also how the Holy Spirit directs us to view it. Do you see it? The scene we just read is describing Easter, but while the ending scene is beautiful, getting there is rather ugly. However, it is in this ugliness the beauty and joy of Easter is displayed more vividly and lived more thankfully.

There is a war waged against the one who is Holy and Righteous. There is joy in banding together with those known for their evil. There is death in the picture of Easter as this world, to state the obvious that includes us, as it takes on the one who authored life.

The event which took place leading up to this lesson was the healing of a man who had been lame since birth. He begged every day at the temple gate. Peter and John came across him and said they had no silver or gold to give him but in the name of Jesus Christ they commanded him to get up and walk. As one could imagine, this raised quite a stir, it brought great surprise and interest to Peter and John. But this interest was not in Jesus Christ, this interest was in the healing. You see, in the background of this lesson is a mentality as old as sin itself, a problem still alive and well among us and the rest of this world today. It is the desire to rid this world of problems. However, we recognize, at least in some small way on the road to this quest, we cannot do that. We recognize there is someone, something greater out there and we can recognize that when we see something amazing take place in front of our eyes. But to think the problem originates in us? Well, that is just nonsense. We are fixers. When we see a problem, we innovate a solution. When another problem arises after that, we create version 2.0. That is why this world has gotten so much better over time right?

Obviously, that could not be further from the truth. That is because there is an ugly bloody war behind the beauty of Easter. That is because as the fix for all the world's problems stood before a court and a crowd, "Release the murderer, release Barabbas!" was shouted. That is why the Bible is opened less and less in favor of unlocking the potential of me or focusing on the good I do more and more. But whenever the focus is taken off of Christ and gets placed more on someone or something we are plunged right back into that ugly war against the author of life, against our God.

The war is an utterly sinful one because it is waged against the Holy one. The war is utterly foolish because it is waged against the author of Life, against God. But that is always what sin is, originating in depravity and foolishness. It is foolish to spread gossip, to tear down someone's name and reputation because we like that it makes us look better or we like that people are listening to us. To boast about our actions that look good to others because just maybe if enough people praise me or recognize me, they won't notice how lopsided my scale droops in evil as God declares there is no one who does good, not even one.

You see, this war has only one outcome when we take a good look at who we are fighting against. We can claw, scrape, plot and scheme but God will take what we owe as payment for our sin. Death. The battlefield is hopeless, cut off from aid, charred, and scarred. Our muscles ache from straining, our throats are dried out from shouts of anguish, we could not be in more need of a rest. But in that moment of realization that we are lost and without hope in steps Christ. The one we were fighting against takes up the battle on our behalf. He marches into battle and faces our certain death himself and the outcome is exactly as expected. He dies.

But it is here we see his true power for not only does he die for us, but he defeats death in his own resurrection from it. One almost has to laugh for joy as the son breaks through the clouds and shines down on this battlefield. God turns everything upside down to rescue and save us from ourselves, giving us peace just as he promised. Refreshment. That refreshment is yours right now. God desires that refreshment to be yours as he shows you the beauty of this once war-torn battlefield. The resurrection of Jesus shows us we can not rely on our own strength and our own understanding, but only in the power of God, the very power found and displayed in the resurrection. It is refreshment for you right now because your sins do not change the power of God found in the resurrection. It was for your sins that power was displayed. It is in that display of power, that overflow of God's grace, that motivates our repentance, that desire to turn from our sin in thanks to our Savior. And brothers in sisters, through that, we see the most beautiful of sights. Forgiveness. We know the hand of God interlock with ours in peace. The chains on our souls clank to the ground in freedom and we have what we need most, refreshment. He is risen indeed, Alleluia. Amen.

## CREATE IN ME

Psalm 51

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

*Please be seated.*

## THANK OFFERING

1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

*The members of Christ Lutheran join together to do the Lord's work in Cambridge and throughout the world in our church body, the WELS. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry. (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.)*

**GIVEPLUS<sup>+</sup>**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Lord God, Heavenly Father, the psalmist long ago sang of how he thirsted for you and how your Word was sweeter than honey to his mouth. We thank you for bringing us together again today to be nourished by your Word and to grow up in our salvation.

**C: Continue to pour out your Holy Spirit on us so that we may increase in godly wisdom and knowledge and hold more firmly to the faith to which you have called us.**

L: Lord Jesus, you came to your disciples that first Easter evening to bring them the peace their hearts were lacking. Their attention was so focused on the horror of your crucifixion that they did not see the glory of your resurrection or understand what it meant for their lives. You had won the victory, but they felt themselves still under siege. We must confess, O Lord, that all too often we are no different than they. We see the troubles and trials of life, the difficulties, disappointments, and apparent defeats, and live-in fear because we forget your empty tomb and what it means for every aspect of our lives.

**C: Come to us in our weakness. Remind and assure us that your victory is our victory, that the power which raised you from the dead will also be at work in our lives. Give our hearts that peace which the world cannot give and enable us to share it with others.**

L: Lord of the church, we ask your blessing upon the many servants across our synod who are deliberating on where they may best minister in your kingdom. They have been extended Calls to a new field of labor. Give them wisdom and understanding as they consider where they might best put their skills and abilities to use. Give them confidence that, whatever their decisions, it will be a blessing because you will be with them. Be with the members of the congregations who have called them so that they take advantage of the opportunities to evaluate their own ministries and continue to dedicate themselves to the work before them.

**C: Because the harvest is great and the workers are few, move the hearts of your people to prepare themselves for full-time ministry. Be with those who are in the closing months of their training to enable them to finish the course laid out before them.**

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

L: Lord Jesus, you live forever to intercede for us. Sanctify our thoughts and words that they may be acceptable to our Father in heaven, for you have taught us to pray:

#### LORD'S PRAYER

*Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

#### HYMN

**O SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING | #165 v.1, 4-8**

#### PRAYER

L: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (sings) Amen.**

#### [CHILDREN'S MESSAGE](#)

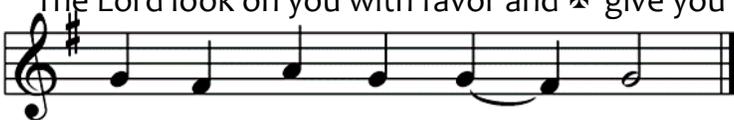
#### THE LORD'S BLESSING

*Numbers 6:24-26*

L: 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.



**C: A - men. A - men. A - men.**

#### CLOSING HYMN:

**JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY'S WON | #145**