



Hope

FOR FEAR & SADNESS

Worship Folder for April 25, 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 | APRIL 25 – MAY 2

TODAY	9:00am	Worship
	10:30am	Voters' Meeting
MONDAY	6:30pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom - <i>Time: It's a Gift</i>)
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm	Bible Class (Zoom – <i>Be Strong!</i>)
SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship
	10:30am	Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voters' Meeting Please remain after worship TODAY for our **Voters' Meeting!** Your involvement in church decisions and processes is vital!

Strategic Planning We are looking to start a strategic planning team in the coming months. Please let Pastor know if you would be interested in joining!

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

ShopWithScrip Gift cards will be available for purchase following worship NEXT SUNDAY!

Stay Informed! Hardcopies of the May Newsletter as well as the new Forward in Christ are available in the entryway. Pick yours up today!

Add to the Beauty! Church clean-up day is **Saturday, May 8** at 9:00am, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, the work day will be moved to Saturday, May 15 at 9:00am. Our youth are encouraged to come help with the clean-up.

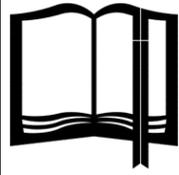
Take a PEEK at next WEEK!

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

Ushers: Brian Lawrence, Mitch Morehouse, Tom Panning

Counters: Sean Brown, Emma Biebert

Cleaners: Paul & Joella Sorgert & Shawn & Sarah Motl



SERVICE OF THE WORD

This liturgy, found on page 38 in the red hymnal, offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

BLESSED JESUS, AT YOUR WORD | #221

Please Stand.

GATHERING

L: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

L: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

ABSOLUTION

L: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAISE & PRAYER

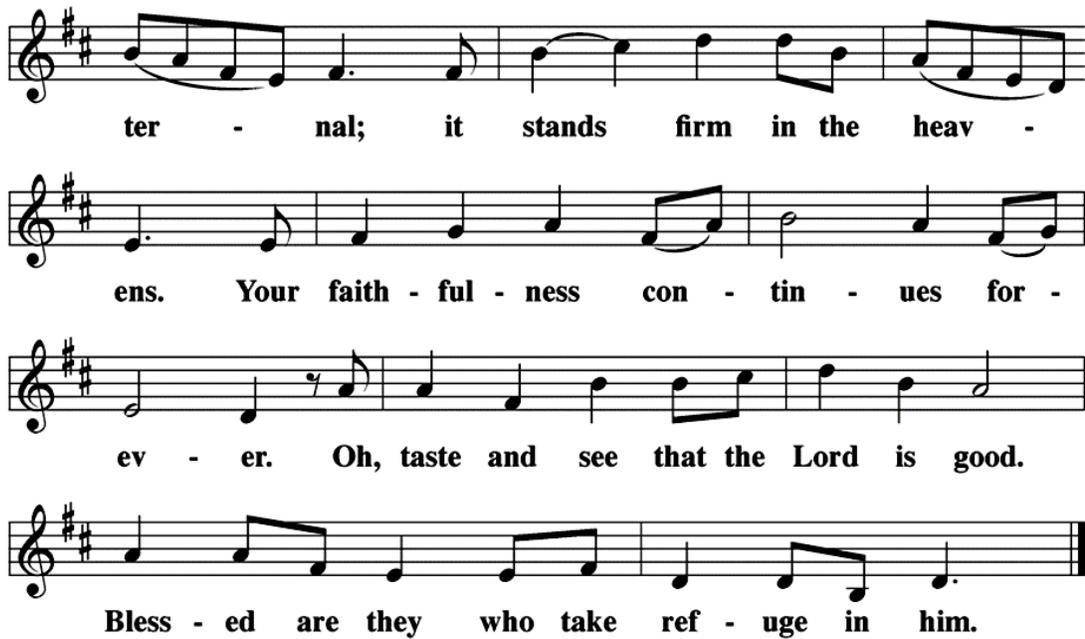
L: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
 ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
 ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

C: Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Please be seated.



FIRST READING

Acts 4:23-33

²³ After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. ²⁴ When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, "Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said:

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.

²⁷ “For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen.

²⁹ “Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness ³⁰ as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

³² The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. ³³ The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Hymn #766 | (Blue Hymnal)



All sing v.1,2,5; Women sing v.3; Men sing v.4

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-2

See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. ² Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 10:14

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia.

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

¹¹ “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me ¹⁵ (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”

L: The Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

YOUTH HYMN

[I AM JESUS' LITTLE LAMB](#)

[SERMON Acts 4:23-33](#)

[Hope for Fear and Sadness: "God's Powerful Grace"](#)

Who shepherds you? This Sunday is labeled "Good Shepherd Sunday". It would be kind of awkward to answer that question with anyone but our Lord. But is that really true? In the 23rd Psalm God tells us the Lord is our Good Shepherd and he gives us the reasons this is true. He gives us comfort in tough times. He provides for our needs. He gives us peace, he restores. Do those sound like good things? Maybe a good question would be how many of you want those things? I would guess, for that matter, I would hope all of us want those things.

But the question is, where do we go looking for those things? The answer to that question helps us to see who it is who shepherds us. Do we look for our comfort in financial stability? Do we hope to attain joy in life through the things we have, the type of life we live or the quality of life we have? Do we look for peace in the type of administration our country has, the types of laws that are passed or the amount of unrest in this world or the lack of unrest in this world? Do we look for restoration in the justice we see in the here and now, the hope of a restored "normal". I do not have to make any assumptions about any of you, I only have to look at my own heart to know the truth behind many of these questions. It is easy to convince myself it is the Lord who shepherds me when things are going the way I want them to here on earth. It is much harder to see myself living that truth when I allow frustration to overtake me based on life when the only thing that has changed is how I perceive life to be going. Maybe that is true for you too.

But this morning, let us all look to our Good Shepherd and let us see how he does not change. Let us see his powerful grace which remains unchanging in our lives, grace which enables bold living, grace which transforms the way we see our lives. May we see this because the truth is the Lord is our Good shepherd and he continues to provide for our needs, give peace and restore our souls. Yes, God is here still today with his powerful grace to continue to give Hope for fear and sadness. May we see an example of this as we turn once more to our lesson from Acts but more importantly, through this portion of God's Word, may we be strengthened to live confidently within the flock of our Good Shepherd. We listen as God speaks to us through his Word.

²³ After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. ²⁴ When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, "Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said:

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.

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³² The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. ³³ The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them.

What is the difference between the believer's worldly situation and the situation we find ourselves in right now? You could very easily say the only difference was theirs was worse and yet they handled it with greater grace. Why and how? Quite simply, they viewed the Lord as their shepherd and put their trust in God's powerful grace.

This is significant because we do not see them taking injustice into their own hands from a perspective of living lives of anarchy against the government. We do not see them even speaking out against the governing authorities. Instead, we see them bringing their concerns before God in prayer while asking God to be God and display his power and grace through their words and actions. But then they do not just sit back and wait for God to do something, they get to work living in that confidence.

At the risk of being gimmicky, I wanted to share a short video clip with you this morning. They say a picture says a thousand words, well a video can, at times do more. As you watch the video, think about the shepherd and yourself as the sheep.

We can look around us and it is so easy for us to get wound up by earthly things, taxes, government overreach, injustice, unloving treatment of race and members of our communities. It is easy to hear God's word which brings freedom and go prancing off and end up right back in trouble, distress and sadness. But those things only happen when we turn from our Savior and go off on our own.

That is why God's powerful grace is so important to hear, to feed on and drink in. Did you notice what the reaction was to terrible news in our lesson? They did not dwell on it. They turned it over to God in prayer. They went to find comfort in God's Word. They asked for God's power to be with them for their comfort, and then they went about the task of living out God's love in how they treated each other and continuing to preach resurrection truth.

Consider for a moment what that would look like. Consider how different that looks from the rest of the world. Instead of living in disgust, fear, and worry, we would live in confidence and peace. Instead of complaining to each other where this world is heading, we would encourage each other to hand our worries and concerns over to God and know there they are in the best hands. Instead of being filled with frustration over government overreach, a lack of love towards those hurting or in need, problems with our justice system, or pandemics and how they are handled we are filled with the comfort only God's Word can give. Comfort that all done here on earth is done in vain if it is not done in God's name. Comfort that points us to who is really in control and taking a stand against the Lord and his anointed one is perfectly futile because you are taking a stand against the one who has defeated death.

Instead of living in and focusing on our differences and differences of opinion we remember we are bound to each other in Christ's perfect love. Through that love we can show real compassion to each other and to this world. Through that love we can remember what we have is not our own but we are simply stewards of what God has given us and it is to be used to his glory.

But even greater than that, we rejoice in constantly being guided back when we stray by the powerful grace of our God, our good shepherd. He uses the rod and staff of his word to shepherd us. It is only in his power, power on display through the reminder of his resurrection.

So who is your shepherd? If we are honest, we may not always act like it is Jesus, but that doesn't mean Jesus ever stops pulling us out of the ditches we fall into. That doesn't mean Jesus ever stops being our shepherd. That doesn't mean the answer ever changes because fortunate for us, the sheep don't make the decisions, the shepherd does. So may we hear his calming voice this morning. May we hear the voice which comforts us in our fears, calms in our time of worry, leads us to green pastures of fruitful living and is constantly there to assure us all the power in his underserved love is put on display for the benefit of his flock, you and me. Amen.

APOSTLES' 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.

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) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

GIVEPLUS⁺

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- L: Good Shepherd, we praise and thank you for your great love for us, those whom you have chosen and called to be your sheep.
- C: Keep us ever in your care. Preserve us from those who desire to destroy the spiritual life you have created in us. Give us ears that listen to your voice only.**
- L: Loving Savior, you not only care for those who are in the fold, you also search out those who have wandered from the flock so that they might be rescued from spiritual danger and everlasting condemnation. You reach out to bring under your care those who have not known you.
- C: Cause our hearts to be like yours, ones filled with a divine love for all those for whom you have died.**
- L: Dear Redeemer, you have warned us that those who struck down the Shepherd will attack his sheep as well. Prepare us for those times when we will endure insult and/or injury simply because we hold to your will and walk in your ways.
- C: Give us the strength to live in holiness and love as you did so that even in our darkest moments your light may shine in and through us. Be with all those who are even now enduring persecution because they confess and proclaim you as the Savior.**
- L: Ruler of all things, week by week we hear the reports of those who are suffering because of calamities that have come upon them because of weather, war, and natural disasters.
- C: Comfort those who are your own with the knowledge that you have not abandoned them, and that you will be with them to provide all they need. Be with those who do not believe in you so that they might seek you. Give us the ability to see in these disasters the opportunity to be your face and hands of love to those who are in need.**
- L: King of Kings and Lord of Lords, you rule over all things. Be with our nation and its government, whether it be those serving in elected office or those carrying out the affairs of

state as public servants. You know the challenges they face both because they have the same sinful natures we do and the special temptations present for those who have power. Grant them wisdom, humility, righteousness patience, integrity, concern for those who have no one else to defend them.

C: Frustrate and defeat those whose only goals are to disrupt, damage and destroy. Protect the innocent from those who would harm them. Enable those who serve in our justice system to apply the laws of our land fairly and impartially so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

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

L: Dear Savior, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable as we pray that which you have taught us:

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

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS | #375

PRAYER

L: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE LORD'S BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

L: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



CLOSING HYMN:

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS | #494