

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 15, 2015



Christ Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Community of Faith, Reaching Out to Change Lives

3001 Lovers Lane · Dallas, Texas 75225 · 214-363-4355

WELCOME!

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Christ Lutheran Church is a community of faith, reaching out to change lives. Join us for Youth Faith Formation at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary and Adult Education at 10 a.m. in Room 220.

Children are always welcome in worship! But if you would prefer, we do have a nursery for infants up to age three. For directions to the nursery, please ask an usher. Childcare is available from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Activity/coloring books for older children are available in the bags in the back of the sanctuary. See below for more information about Christ Lutheran Church and how you can be a part of our ministry.

A Community of Faith

The members of Christ Lutheran Church are dedicated to nurturing one another's faith and that of our visitors through our sanctuary choir and bell choir, youth groups, women's groups, men's Bible study, youth choir and chime choir, book clubs and much more. Please see our website for meeting times and contact information, or ask one of our ushers.

Reaching out to Change Lives

We realize that our ministry to the community, nation and world are of vital importance. We change lives through ministries such as:

Angel Tree	Lutheran World Relief
Back on My Feet	Meals on Wheels
Christ Lutheran Preschool	Mosaic
CROP Walk	Mount Olive Food Pantry
First Sagrada Familia Church	Soul Church Dallas
Lutheran Social Services	Texas Winds Musical Outreach

Learn more about Christ Lutheran Church's mission and vision at www.clcdallas.org, visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/christlutheran), or follow us on Twitter (@clcdallas).

Christ Lutheran Preschool

Our preschool has been a growing ministry in the church for more than 50 years. Children between the ages of two months and five years are provided a safe, nurturing environment with age-appropriate learning experiences to encourage physical, social-emotional, aesthetic, cognitive and spiritual development. For more information about our preschool, please contact Paige Baldwin, Preschool Director, at 214-363-2242.

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements (11:00) Reception of New Members

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share the Peace of Christ with one another.

Call to Worship *Amazing Grace*—Arr. D.E. Wagner
Hand Bell Ensemble

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand.

P: We begin in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit, God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

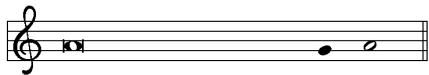
Opening Hymn 715 *Christ, Be Our Light*

Greeting

P: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, rich in mercy,

C: By the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Please be seated.

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is

not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand.

slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,

Gospel: John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

P: *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.*

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P: *The Gospel of our Lord*

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

Children's Message

*The children are invited to bring their offering forward at this time.
After the message, they may return to the pew or go to the nursery.*

Sermon

Vicar Michael

Hymn of the Day 660 *Lift High the Cross*

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

P: Let us confess our baptismal faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of Intercession

A: Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by His compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

MEAL

Please take this opportunity to sign the white 'getting to know you' pad in your pew.

Offerings Received

Please be seated.

Many of our members give electronically. To learn more about this option, please ask an usher.

**Special Music: 8:30 *Lord, Make My Life a Sacrifice*—L. Larson
Sanctuary Choir**

11:00 *Laudate Dominum*—Mozart

Presentation of the Gifts

Offertory

Please stand



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 to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Offertory Prayer

A: God our provider:

C: You have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

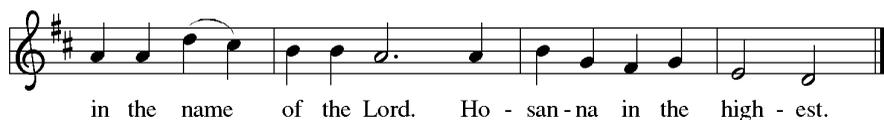
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's journey from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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**

Invitation to Communion

P: All are welcome! We lift up the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation.

C: And we call upon the mercy of God!

Communion

Please be seated.

Holy Communion is the Lord's Supper. All who believe in Christ's presence to forgive our sins through this sacrament are invited. We will be serving communion by intinction. You will receive a wafer to dip into a chalice of red wine or white grape juice. Those who choose not to commune may come forward for a blessing. After receiving the Sacrament, you are welcome to stay and kneel at the altar rail for prayer and meditation for as long as you desire.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Special Music 8:30 *Laudate Dominum*—Mozart

11:00 *Lord, Make My Life a Sacrifice*—L. Larson

Post-Communion Blessing

Please stand.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

SENDING

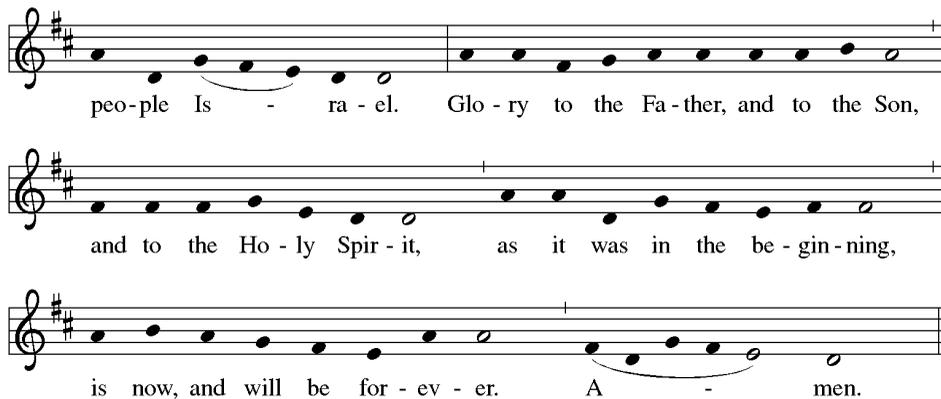
Benediction

P: The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn *Song of Simeon*

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Sending

A: Marked with the cross of Christ, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Palm/Passion Sunday...On Sunday, March 29, we will celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem with the waving of palms. Then we will hear a special telling of the Passion History from the gospel of Mark. At 9:45 a.m., the children will gather in the sanctuary, where Pastor Heidi will read an Easter story. Then we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday worship—April 2, 6:45 p.m.

We will commemorate Jesus’ last supper with his disciples in the solemn act of stripping the altar. We will also celebrate First Communion.

Good Friday worship—April 3, 6:45 p.m.

This service will feature our Sanctuary Choir performing a moving Lenten Cantata titled *Touched by the Christ*, by Lloyd Larson.



Easter Sunday Schedule

Sunrise worship	7 a.m., CLC patio
Traditional worship	8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
German Easter service	5 p.m.

Our youth will serve their traditional Easter breakfast between 8:30 and 11:00 worship. Join us for great food and a great cause, as all proceeds from the meal go toward mission trips.