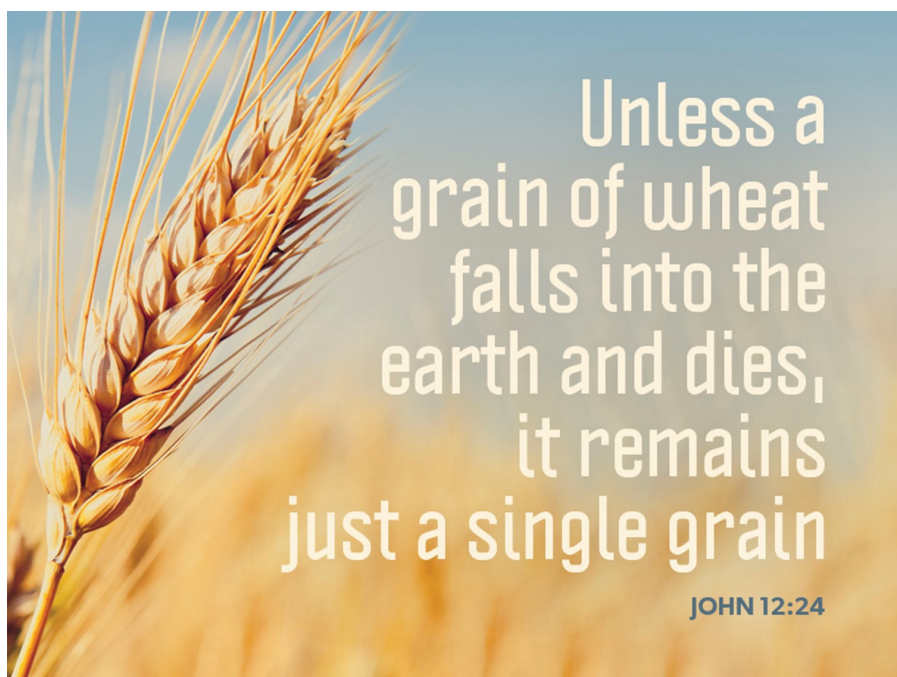


Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

*Putting Jesus' Way of Life into Practice by...*

**Encountering God, Loving One Another,  
& Reaching the World.**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
*March 17, 2024*



(Ear of wheat by pawel.gaul. ©2022 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.)

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

# *Welcome to Christ the Servant Lutheran Church*

(Congregational responses are in bold print.)

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen**

## **GATHERING SONG**

**“HERE I AM TO WORSHIP”**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

<sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: PSALM 51:1-12 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in  
your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your**

**judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

## **SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: JOHN 12:20-33**

The holy gospel according to John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in

Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"GREAT ARE YOU LORD"**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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**

**Response: Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.**

#### **PEACE**

**The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.**

#### **OUR OFFERINGS**

**MUSICAL OFFERING                    “OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, LORD”**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Let us pray.  
God our provider, 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**

**The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **LORD’S PRAYER**

**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

## **COMMUNION**

### **HYMN DURING COMMUNION**

**“AT THE CROSS”**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen

## **COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
Amen

### **SENDING SONG**

**“MY SAVIOR, MY GOD”**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY!**  
**THANK YOU!**

Greeter: Katie  
Welcome Desk: Extravagant Generosity  
Ushers:  
Reader: Tony  
Sound Booth: Tim, Tom, Peter  
Communion Assistants: Tony, Carol  
Musicians: Revelation  
Coffee Servers: Jacquelyn & Karen



**Thanks for  
Worshipping With Us**

**PRAYER REQUESTS...**

We pray for those in need of healing and mercy:  
Carol W., Kayla, for the family of Pr. Bob on  
the recent passing of his mother Marjorie,  
Linda, Roger, Gary (Uncle of Sue), Sarah,  
Carol, Salomie (sister-in-law of Peter), Jane  
(Grace's friend), Sylvia, Roberta, Dorothy  
(Mmother of Linda), Patty (sister of Mike),  
and Anna.



(Please call the church office with any prayer concerns or updates.)

♪ ♪ ♪ *THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD!* ♪ ♪ ♪

**Thank you** for giving to support the ministries at Christ the Servant. You may donate online on our website: [www.cslcvh.org/tithe](http://www.cslcvh.org/tithe). Offering envelopes are available at the Welcome Desk.







# *Cross & Cradle News*

## *Community Life*

### **THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK AT CHRIST THE SERVANT**

#### **Today: Sunday, March 17 - Fifth Sunday in Lent**

- 8:30 AM - CSLC Bible Study
- 9:30 AM - CSLC Worship
- 10:30 AM - CSLC Fellowship Time
- 11:15 AM - EFLC Adult Sunday School
- 12:30 PM - EFLC Worship

#### **Monday, March 18**

- 9:00 AM - Package bread & deliver
- 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM - Piecemakers (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM - Evergreen Ponds Meeting (L/FH)

#### **Tuesday, March 19**

- 7:00 AM - Bread Preparation (Fellowship)
- 8:30 - 9:30 AM - Bread Distribution + Coffee Get-Together (FH)
- 6:30 PM - AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### **Wednesday, March 20**

- 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM - Handwork Group (FH)
- 6:00 PM - Lenten Supper
- 7:00 PM - Lent Service
- 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM - AA (Class A)

#### **Thursday, March 21**

- 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM - YogaDevotion (S)
- 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM - Revelation Rehearsal (S)
- 6:00 PM - Executive Meeting
- 6:45 PM - Council Open Forum (FH)
- 7:00 PM - Church Council Meeting (FH)

#### **Friday, March 22**

- 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM - EFLC Choir Practice (Class A)

#### **Saturday, March 23**

- 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM - EFLC Event (FH)

#### **Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday**

- 9:30 AM - CSLC Worship
- 10:30 AM - CSLC Fellowship Time
- 11:15 AM - EFLC Adult Sunday School
- 12:30 PM - EFLC Worship



### **Lenten Soup Suppers**

It is a tradition here at Christ the Servant to have a church family soup supper before our worship services on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Dinner will be at 6 PM followed by service at 7 PM. We are asking for volunteers to provide soups, sandwiches, desserts. The Signup Sheet is in the Welcome Area.

### **Yogadevotion**

Getting up and down off the floor can be difficult for many reasons. This Yogadevotion class

incorporates poses that increase range of motion, improve balance and bring attention to the breath, all using a chair as a prop. The new class will run from 3/7/24 - 4/25/24 from 3:45 PM to 4:45 PM. This 8 week session is \$88 or drop-in classes are \$15 each. See Lois if interested.



### **Funeral Services**

Steven Hunt: Wednesday, March 20, 10 AM is visitation. and 11 AM is the funeral service followed with a fully catered luncheon.

Herb Gustafson: Friday, March 22, 12:30 PM, is the funeral service, with an appetizer luncheon to follow at 1:30 PM at Applewood Pointe located at 6050 Lake Rd. in Woodbury.

### **Blood Drive at CSLC**

The next blood drive at Christ the Servant is scheduled for Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, from 11 AM to 5 PM. Sign up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



### **Maundy Thursday**

**March 28, 2024**

7 PM at CSLC

### **Good Friday**

**March 29, 2024**

**Joint Services with Lakeview Lutheran**

Noon at CSLC

7 PM at Lakeview Lutheran

1194 County Rd. C East, Maplewood MN



### **Save the Date**

April 14, 2024,

EFLC Charter Sunday and Celebration.

More details to come.

### **Rummage Sale**

**Friday, April 26**

**(4 PM - 7 PM)**

**&**

**Saturday, April 27**

**(9 AM - 3 PM)**

We are planning for the Rummage Sale. As you clear out the old, remember that your junk could be someone else's treasure!



**RUMMAGE SALE**

## Called Where Jesus Goes

It isn't only the first disciples who become uncomfortable when Jesus talked about his approaching death. We often do as well. Perhaps focusing on the crucifixion seems gruesome. Perhaps it conjures in us the (false) story of a divine parent who cannot forgive without punishing someone, with Jesus standing in as that one. Maybe it feels like a morbid emphasis on sin.

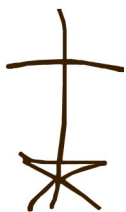


Jesus did not understand himself as the victim of divine punishment. He entered into suffering as a part of his glorification, working with — not against — his Father. He knows that human life has become twisted under the powers of sin and death so that if we grasp onto our “life in this world,” we will miss God’s gracious intention for us. Christ’s judgment of sin is not for our exclusion. Jesus never seeks to shame us, but condemns sin in order to deliver us from its power.

Perhaps, however, we shy away from talk of Christ’s death because we sense, on some level, that if our Lord must go to the cross, then so too must we. Jesus declares, “Whoever serves me must follow me.” Discipleship is a summons to die to ourselves and lose our life on this world’s terms. Paradoxically, this cruciform journey is the road to true fruitfulness and flourishing. It begins in our baptism and is nourished at the Lord’s table. It is sustained by the fellowship of faith, where together we hear the life-giving word of Jesus. It will find completion on the day of resurrection.

Our souls long for this way of salvation. Deep within us all, a voice whispers, “We wish to see Jesus.” God knows this need, so Jesus is lifted up to drive out the powers of sin and death. God’s unending mercy is displayed. For the same reason, we come together so that in hearing the word and sharing the eucharistic meal, and in our prayers, laments, and praises, Jesus may be lifted up to draw us, and all people, to salvation.

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### **CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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