

Christ Lutheran Church
Ash Wednesday
ELW Holy Communion, Setting V
March 2, 2022, 7:30 pm
The Rev. David Hulse, presiding



Christ Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We extend God's own welcome to all, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other human distinction.

"Be still, and know that I am God." During the Prelude worshippers are invited to prepare quietly for worship.

PRELUDE *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* J.S. Bach

*Stand, as able.

+ GATHERING +

OPENING HYMN *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*
ELW 319 vv 1 and 4

The open font is a powerful symbol of the centrality of baptism for Christians.

***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.

The Prayer of the Day, formerly called the "Collect," gathers the theme of each Sunday's worship, each phrase rich in meaning.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMNS TODAY:

ELW 319
ELW 591
ELW
ELW
ELW

God's living and
enlivening word
comes both to us
and through us,
proclaimed in
spoken word,
psalm, sermon and
hymn- singing.

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel ...

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
²a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

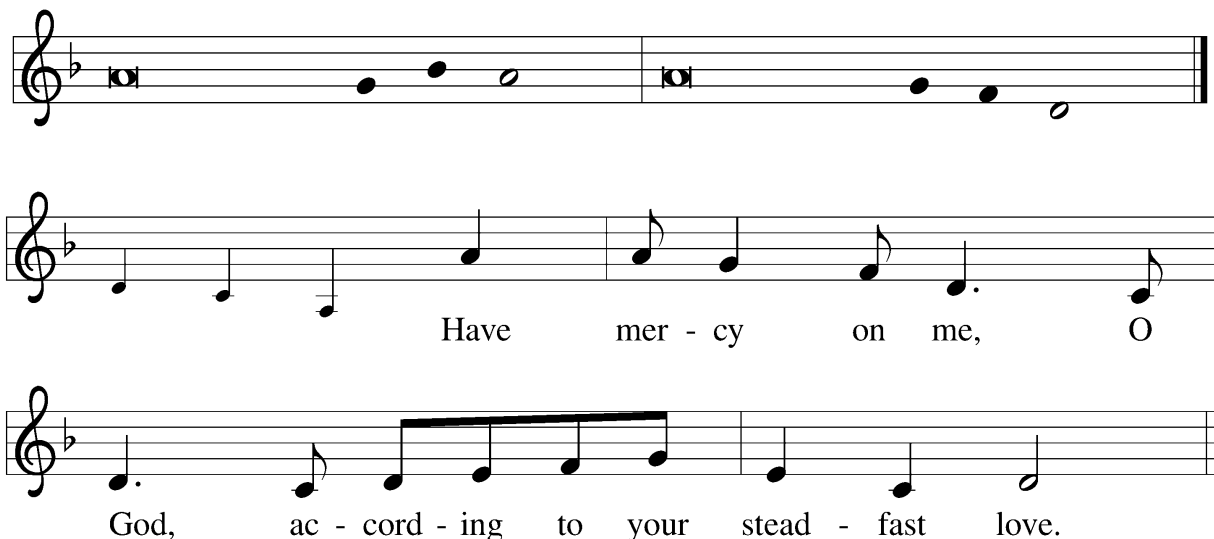
¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God



PSALM 51:1-17

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹ steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹ my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through ¹ from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹ from my sin.**
- ³For I know ¹ my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹ er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹ in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right ¹ in your judgment. R**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born ¹ steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹ mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth ¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹ deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹ shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹ er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear ¹ joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹ may rejoice. R**
- ⁹Hide your face ¹ from my sins,
and blot out ¹ all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean ¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- ¹ it within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away ¹ from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- ¹ it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of ¹ your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- ¹ tiful Spirit. R**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways ¹ to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- ¹ stored to you.
- ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of ¹ my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing ¹ of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵O Lord, o- ¹ pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- ¹ claim your praise.
- ¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or ¹ I would give it.
You are not pleased ¹ with burnt offering.**
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a ¹ troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will ¹ not despise. R



Psalm 51:1

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Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

A reading from Second Corinthians...

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
 and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

The psalms were the first hymns of the people of God and express hope and despair, trust and tribulation, anger, joy and praise.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

We stand to
greet our Lord
Jesus Christ as
he comes to us
in the Holy
Gospel.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Return to the Lord

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci -
ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes, with a final whole note on the second staff.

Text: Joel 2:13

Music: Carolyn Jennings

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***GOSPEL:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *That Priceless Grace* ELW 591 vv 1 and 4

INVITATION TO LENT (remain seated)

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent--self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love--strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

The congregation participates in the proclamation of God's Word in singing the Hymn of the Day, the assembly's principal song.

During the extended litany of confession, the congregation remains seated, a posture more conducive to meditation than standing.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness,
the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to share the faith that is in us,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments,
our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding
us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal
life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HYMN DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

ELW 811

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Brief silence.

Teach us your church to be honest about our sinfulness. Turn our hearts to you so that we may learn ways to bring reconciliation to our broken relationships.

Point us to the sources of injustice and lead us to work for change in the lives of those who have been broken by violence, systemic poverty, poor health care, lack of housing, and all kinds of -isms.

Bring hope to the people of Ukraine as they face the armed forces attempting to take away their freedom.

Give wisdom to world leaders that they may find paths to peace.

Comfort those who mourn, all who are sick, and those who are troubled.

For all this we pray. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

+MEAL+

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY HYMN *Christ the Life of All the Living* ELW 339 v1

Much more than a polite greeting, the exchange of peace is God's answer to our prayers in the presence of the risen Christ and part of our preparation to receive him in his holy supper.

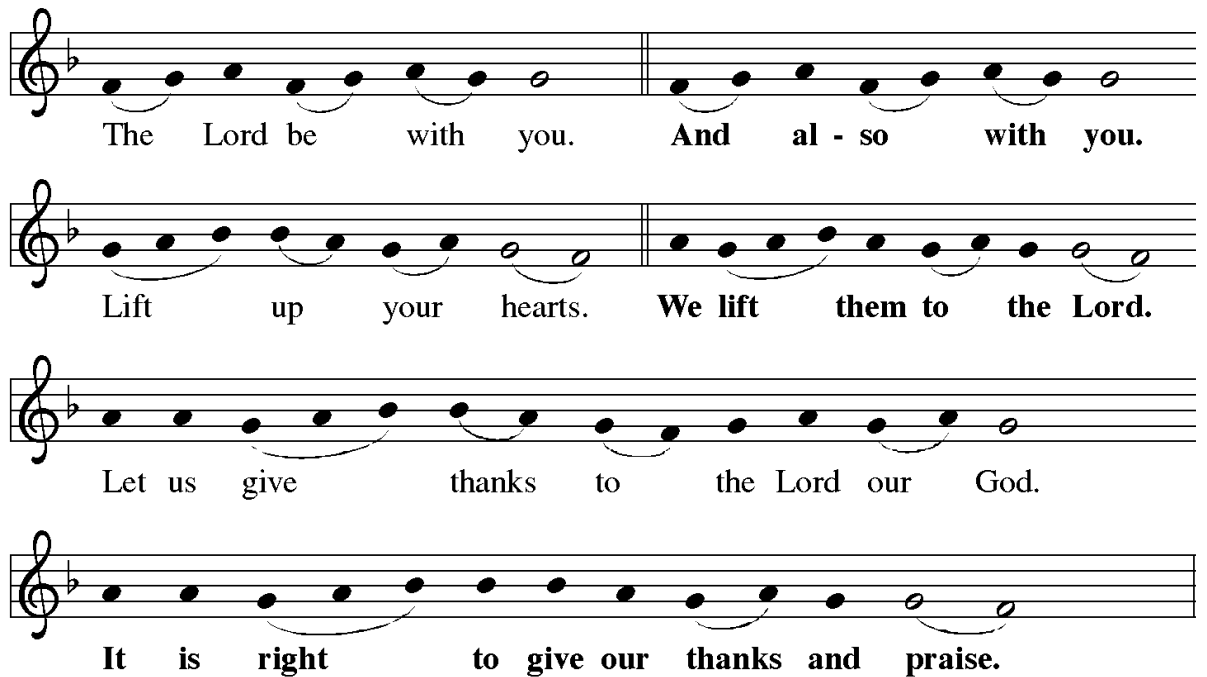
For the time being, please nod or signal to one another as a sign of peace.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast
where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOG



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

*PROPER PREFACE

*HOLY HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord

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.
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.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
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.
Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

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. A - men.

Sung or spoken, in any translation, the Lord's Prayer, which may be a pattern for all our prayers, here serves as our table prayer before we share in the Lord's Supper.

Communicants are seated and begin to gather around the table as "Lamb of God" is sung.

DISTRIBUTION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.
Amen.

+ **SENDING** +

*BLESSING

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** *The Glory of These Forty Days* ELW 320 vv1 and 4

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Ah, Holy Jesus* Johannes Brahms

Christ Lutheran Church practices Eucharistic hospitality; all baptized Christians who trust in Christ's presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome at the table where he is both host and food.

Communicants normally receive the bread in open, cupped palms (sometimes laid one over the other in the shape of the cross).

Wine (light colored) or grape juice (red/purple) is offered in an individual glass.

For persons who exclude gluten from their diet, all wafers are gluten-free.

"Go in peace." The Postlude is a musical 'sending' that concludes the service, helping us to transition back into the wider world. Congregants are invited to stay and listen or to leave respectfully.

Please hold in prayer:

We pray for the family of Mary Kay Aberth and the family of Jim Gowe, Jim Aberth, Anna Anderson, Kwai Lin Chan, Steven Chartier, Steven Chin, Brigitte Chisholm, James Clunie, Danny Elson, Ron Embree, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Susan Giroux, Charles Graham, Ann Hoilo, Joy Honen, Arthur Hurst, Richard Hurst, Gayle Jaffe, Adele Kasinskas, Gloria Kleinfelt, Georgie Klinger, Chui Yuk Lee, Erica Lee, Suxian Lin, Phillip Liu, Matt M, Laraine Marthinsen, John Melin, Jon Nelson, Arvind Raja, Deb Ream, Erica Rich, Shannon Ripp, Louann Smith, Jay Virshbo, Polly Weston, Shirley Wong, and Ellen Zagajeski; we pray for all who contend with addictions, all who struggle with mental illness; all who are serving in the armed forces; and all who fight COVID-19 and its lingering effects.

With Gratitude to Today's Worship Leaders:

Greeters	Martha Cronin and Mary Avalos
Assisting Minister	George Hall
Reader	Beth Castro
Communion Assistant	Cathy Gallagher
Altar Guild	Joyce Simon and Carol Virshbo
Cantor	John Whitlock
Audio Visual Team:	Comlanvi Agbodjinou, Alan Avalos, Rolf Larson, Phil Roberts, Juliet Seaberg

Christ Lutheran Church

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The Rev David Hulse, Interim Pastor

Tom Berryman, Music Director

Gail Weston-Roberts, Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator

Kim Petot, Bell Choir Director

Leaders of the Congregation

Frank Miller, Financial Secretary

Celeste Larson, Social Justice

Phil Roberts, Worship, Music, and the Visual Arts

Carol Virshbo, Professional Leadership

Mary Avalos and Robin Hurst, Family Promise

Edie Lohr, Altar Guild

Lisa Chan, Card Ministry

Carol Virshbo, Coffee Hour

John Whitlock, Finance and Property

Amy Lousararian, Endowment

George Hall, Stewardship

Diane Stevens, Visitation

Congregation Council

Mary Avalos (2024), President

Edie Lohr (2022), Treasurer

David Ripp (2022), Vice President

Ellen Zagajeski (2022), Secretary

John Whitlock (2022)

Pamela Bathen (2023)

Patricia Bianco (2023)

Martha Cronin (2023)

Hannele Saramo-Raja (2023)

Anna Carlson (2024)

Elinor Holm (2024)



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