CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

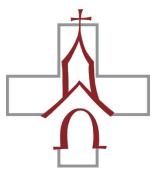




Rev. George Fields, Pastor Sr. Sara Fields, Deaconess Divine Service Each Week with Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages: 9:00 a.m. 4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102 – (601) 366-2055 www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY + February 5, 2023 +

That the Lord of Glory May Come In



We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today, and pray God's richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

All members and our guests are asked to complete the worship attendance pads which can be found on each pew. Guests are also asked to sign the guest register found in the Narthex. We are so glad to have you worshiping with us today!

LARGE PRINT worship folders are available at the usher stand at the back of the nave.

WELCOME:

"Salt is useful for so many purposes in human life! What need is there to speak about this? Now is the proper time to say why Jesus' disciples are compared to salt. Salt preserves meats from decaying into stench and worms. It makes them edible for a long period. They would not last through time and be found useful without salt. So also Christ's disciples, standing in the way of the stench that comes from the sins of idolatry and fornication, support and hold together this whole earthly realm."

-St. Origen, Fragment XCI

THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper (*Holy Communion*), it is important that we review and understand what the Bible teaches regarding this sacrament:

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion¹, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins², and strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal³. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins?

Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?

Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?

Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?

According to Christ's Word in the Holy Scriptures, and in confession with the true Christian faith, at Christ Lutheran we observe the practice of closed communion. We believe that all who commune must confess the same holy faith, as Holy Scripture teaches. Since one's church affiliation indicates an individual's confession of faith, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the above teaching **and** are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod commune. If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold a different confession of faith⁴, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

¹Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

²Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

³1 Corinthians 11:28-32

⁴1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

DIVINE SERVICE I

PRESERVICE MUSIC

The congregation may use this time to pray and meditate.

OPENING HYMN

Jerusalem, O City Fair and High

#674

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

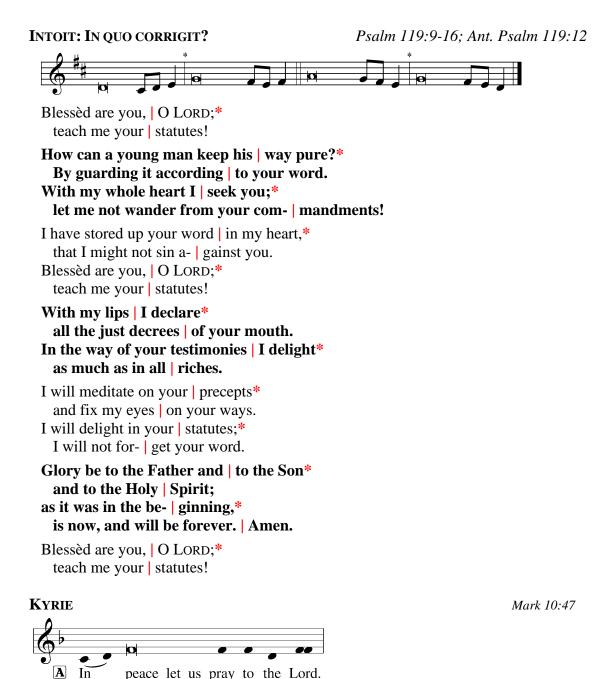
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- \blacksquare In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- **C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

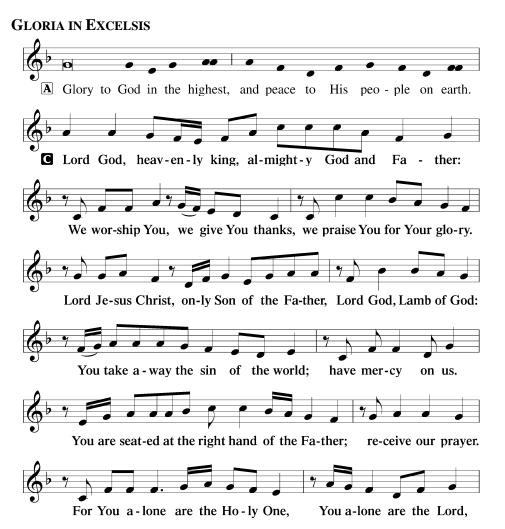
- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +→ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

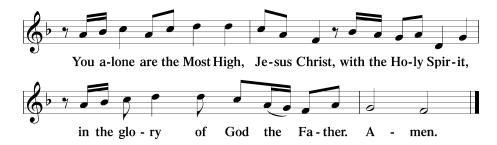
SERVICE OF THE WORD



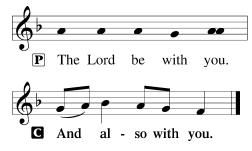








SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 58:3-8

'Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?'

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,

and oppress all your workers.

Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day

will not make your voice to be heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose. a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



Praise the LORD, all | nations!* Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,* and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever. Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;* bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

EPISTLE

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

A



HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy + Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.



[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated

OFFICE HYMNSavior, When in Dust to Thee#419SERMONThe City that Crucified the Lord of Glory

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, (Rom 10:10; Deut 6:4) the Father Almighty, (Mt 6:9; Ex 6:3) maker of heaven and earth (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1) and of all things visible and invisible. (Col 1:16) And in one Lord Jesus Christ, (Rom 10:9) the only-begotten Son of God, (Jn 3:16; Mt 16:16) begotten of His Father before all worlds, (Jn 1:2) God of God, Light of Light, (Jn 17:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 1:1) very God of very God, (Col 2:9) begotten, not made, (Jn 1:2) being of one substance with the Father, (Jn 10:30) by whom all things were made; (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3) who for us men and for our salvation (1 Tim 2:4: Rom 3:23) came down from heaven (Jn 6:41: Lk 15:20) and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary (Lk 1:34-35) and was made man; (Jn 1:14) and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18) He suffered and was buried. (Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53) And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6) and ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9) and sits at the right hand of the Father. (Acts 7:55) And He will come again with glory (Mt 26:64) to judge both the living and the dead, (Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12) whose kingdom will have no end. (2 Pt 1:11) And I believe in the Holy Spirit, (Jn 14:26; Gen 1:2; Acts 2:38) the Lord and giver of life, (Gen 1:2; Jn 3:6) who proceeds from the Father and the Son, (Jn 15:26) who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, (Mt 3:16-17) who spoke by the prophets. (Eze 11:5) And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, (1 Pt 2:5; Eph 2:19-22) I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, (Eph 4:5) and I look for the resurrection of the dead (1 Cor 15:35-49; 1 Thess 4:13-18) and the life + of the world to come. (Mk 10:29-30: Mt 10:40-42)

Amen. (Ps 106:48)

Us men means all people.

Christian: the ancient text reads "catholic," meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition of the prayer:

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

For comfort, health and recovery: Pat Andrews, Gary Atchley, Mary Atchley, Blaine Bagley, Greg Goldman, Laura Kinan, Cathy McDonald, Richard Norton, Gerri Parker, Noah Schultz, Leslie Thomas, Nikki Vines, Caryn Womack;

For those who are ill or distressed: Stan Acey, Jenalee Adams, Layne Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Mimi Bradley, Richard Bradley, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Tina Burke, Wayne Burke, Bobby Carroll, Arthur Collins, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Michele Rae (Cookston) Fowler, Randy Fowler, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Paul Hansen, Tim Hansen, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, Beth Jarratt, Joslyn Jones, Steve Kennedy, John Koster, Katelyn Lawing, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Jerry McMahan, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Mildred Odom, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Johnnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, Leonard Watson, Dana Weaver, Cynthia Widlitze, Carol Wright, Jimmy Wright, Marshall Wright, Barbara Zeigler;

For college and graduate students: Sara Fields, Will Nelson;

For military servants and their families: Gabriel Escude, James (Glen) Hansford, Holden Hathcock, William Nelson, Steven Tatum, John Weidner Jr.;

For foreign missionaries: especially those serving in Spain;

This week's prayer family: Beulah Nunnery and her loved ones.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please stand



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT



 It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



SANCTUS

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

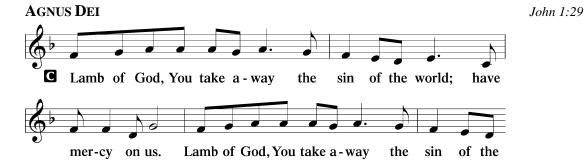
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

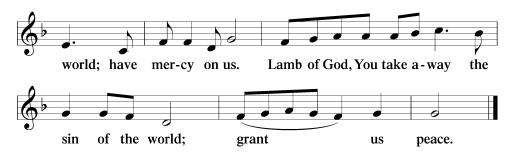
 \mathbf{P} The peace + of the Lord be with you always.





Matthew 26:26-28

John 20:19



Please be seated

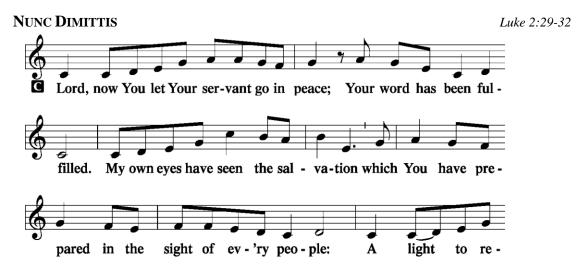
DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

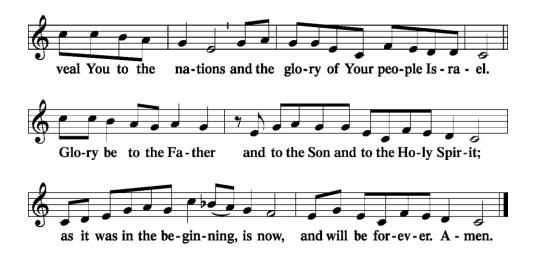
All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to the pastor are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to the pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail and kneel, crossing one arm over the other in the shape of an 'X'. This symbolizes that one is marked by the cross and Triune name of Almighty God.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Your Table I Approach	#628
The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord	#634
Jerusalem, My Happy Home	#673

Please stand following distribution of communion





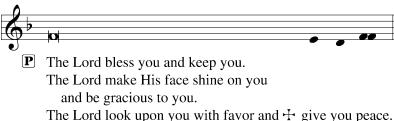
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26





CLOSING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

#341

Acknowledgments

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Today's Worship Servants: Celebrant: Rev. George Fields Acolyte: James Hansford Interpreter: Denee Smith

Elder: Keith Martin Organist: Sister Sara Fields Altar Guild: Margaret Haynes & Barbara Glenn

Spring LifeLight Is Here! Come study with us on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. as we study Biblical Feasts!

Special Voters Meeting... and Food! In anticipation of the Synod's convention this summer, we will be holding a special voters meeting on Sunday, **February 19th** immediately following the Divine Service to vote on nominations for synod president and vice presidents. But that's not all! February 19th is the Feast of the Transfiguration, and so we shall feast after the Feast! Join us for a **potluck after the meeting** as we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord and bid farewell to the season of Epiphany.

Ladies Night Day Out – Mardi Gras! Wear your beads and get ready for King Cake – the ladies are celebrating Mardi Gras this month! Rather than our usual Wednesday evening, this month's outing will be a lunch date on Saturday, February 11, at the Goodlett home. If you can join us, please RSVP to Sabrina at sabrinagoodlett@comcast.net. See you there!

In Loving Memory: A woman who has long been in our prayers, Michele Cookston Fowler (daughter of Bill Cookston), has left this vale of tears and now rejoices at the side of our Savior. Bill has asked that, for anyone wishing to give gifts in her memory, they be sent to the National Parkinson's Foundation (200 S.E. 1st St. STE: 800, Miami, FL 33131).

Readings for next Sunday, February 12th, the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany: Introit Ps. 98:7-9; Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37.