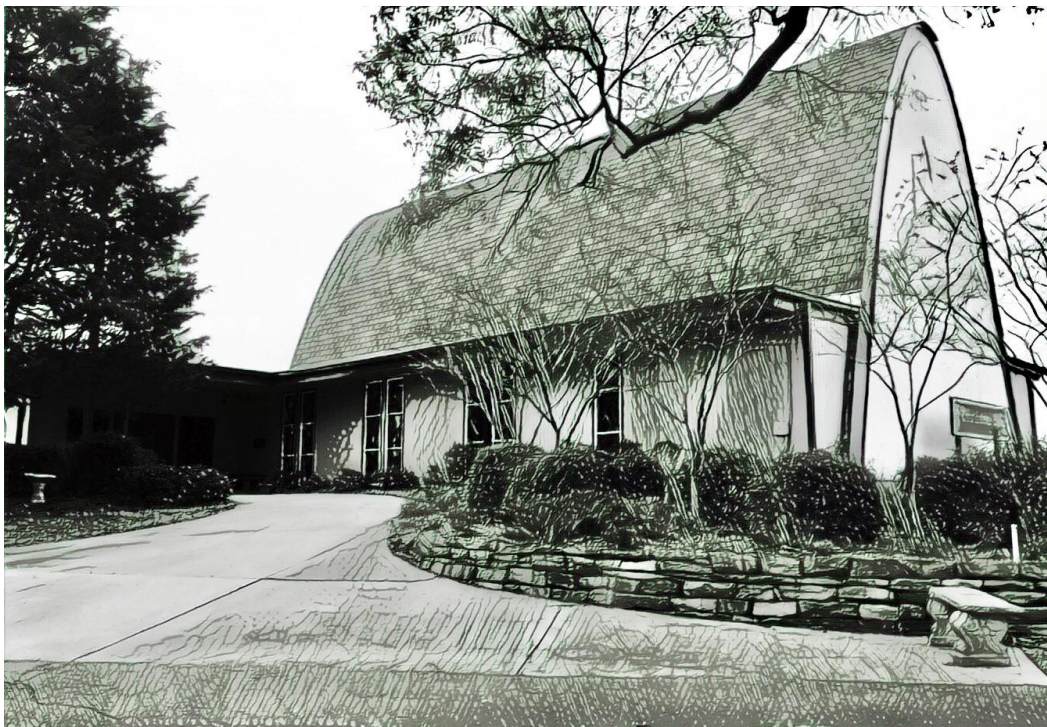


CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Rev. George Fields, Pastor

Divine Service Each Week with Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m.

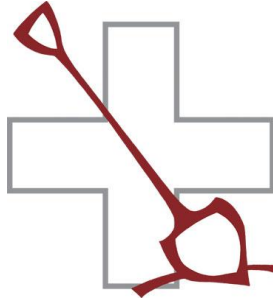
Sunday School for all ages: 9:00 a.m.

4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102 – (601) 366-2055

www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
+ March 23, 2025 +

“Have Dominion over the Earth”



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 worshipping with us today!*

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

WELCOME:

“The fig tree may also be interpreted to mean all of human nature. The master of the house is God the Father; the worker of the vineyard is the Son of God, who came among us to tend painstakingly the vineyard in which we are planted. Christ does not permit this fruitless fig tree to be cut down, but says ‘let it alone this year also.’ Neither the law nor the prophets have improved these people, and they have not yielded any fruit of repentance. Yet I Myself will water them with My teachings and with My passion...”

—Blessed Theophylact, *Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Saint Luke*

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.

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

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

³ 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

⁴ 1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

DIVINE SERVICE II

PRESERVICE MUSIC

The congregation may use this time for prayer and meditation.

OPENING HYMN

The Tree of Life

#561

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

P 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 for His sake 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT: VERBA MEA AURIBUS

Psalm 5:4-8; Ant. Psalm 1:6



For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

For you are not a God who delights in | wickedness;*
evil may not | dwell with you.

The boastful shall not stand be- | fore your eyes;*
you hate all evil- | doers.

You destroy those | who speak lies;*
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and de- | ceitful man.

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will en- | ter your house.*
I will bow down toward your holy temple in the | fear of you.

Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my | enemies;*
make your way straight be- | fore me.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

KYRIE

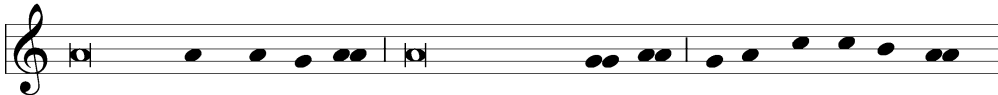
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



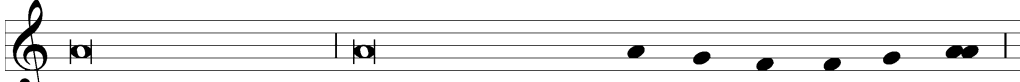
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



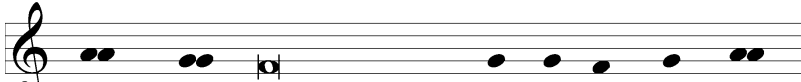
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



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



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 33:7-20

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. Though I say to the righteous that he shall

surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2



**[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

TRACT

P To you I lift up my eyes,

O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

C **Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,**

So our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he has mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

P The Holy ✠ Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

OFFICE HYMN

In the Shattered Bliss of Eden

#572

SERMON

A Fig Tree

Please stand

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 10:30)
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: **Shirley Bagley, Cheryl Bodkin, Hunter Burkhalter, Joel Chaffee, Patsy Lafferty, Anita Martin, Christopher Martin, Mary Kay Martin, Betty Ramsey, Laura Rawson, Mallory Richard, Judy Smathers, Nicole Tatum, Donny Thomas, Jennifer Webster;**

For those who mourn: the family of **Brelon Starnes;**

For those who are ill or distressed: **Jenalee Adams, Blair Alford, Layne Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Hunter Burkhalter, Wayne Burt, Bobby Carroll, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Tahlia Ferderer, George Fields, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Tim Hansen, Faye Hartman, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, April Ann Hubmann, Joslyn Jones, Nancy Jones, Steve Kennedy, John Koster, Katelyn Lawing, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Jonnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, Eloise Springer, Gary Stoeckmann, Lesley Tatum, Nicole Tatum, Donny Thomas, Nikki Vines, Leonard Watson, Dana Weaver, Cynthia Widlitze, Barbara Zeigler;**

For college and graduate students: **Sara Fields;**

For military servants and their families: **Gabriel Escude, Glen Hansford, Bill Nelson, Steven Tatum;**

For foreign missionaries

This week's prayer family: **David & Michelle Miller** and their loved ones.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE


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




P The Lord be with you.




C And al-so 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 Him thanks and praise.

P 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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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

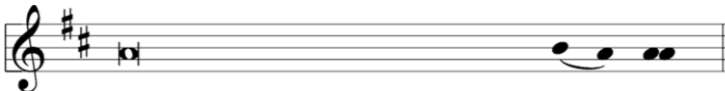
Matthew 26:26-28

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

John 20:19



P The peace ✠ of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

C 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.

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

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed | #560 |
| Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord | #637 |
| O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace | #693 |

Please stand following distribution of communion

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. 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 be 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.

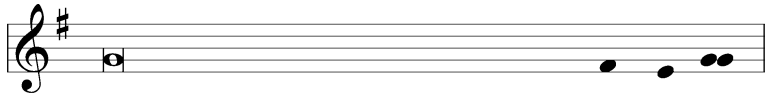
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P 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



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion

#559

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Psalm Antiphon setting by Jeffrey Biersch, used by permission of Liturgy Solutions.

Serving Today:

Celebrant: Rev. George Fields
Acolyte: William Hansford
Interpreter: Denee Smith
Altar Guild: Sabrina Goodlett

Elder: Glen Hansford
Organist: Sr. Sara Fields
Cantor: Keith Martin

Communio Tonight: “Commune” with us over our monthly dinner and discussion! Join us tonight at 5:00 at the Hansford home as we continue with chapter six of our book, *(Dis)ordered*, by Rev. Christopher Esget. See you there!

Lenten Evening Prayer: Join us throughout this penitential season as we gather weekly to meditate upon the Passion of Our Lord. Evening Prayer will be held on **Wednesday nights at 7:00.**

Lenten Dinners: Throughout our sojourn in Lent, we will gather at **6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays** for food and fellowship before weekly Evening Prayer. A sign-up sheet is

available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for all who would like to help provide food for the mid-week dinners (store-bought is plenty fine – no pressure for the culinarily-challenged among us!). Thank you in advance for your loving service and contribution. Thank you!

Sunday School Snacks: Sunday school fellowship isn't complete without a cup of coffee and a cookie! If you can make a mean chocolate chip, bake banana bread, or buy a yummy treat, sign up in the Fellowship Hall to help bring a snack for Sunday school. The Holy Spirit continues to unite and sanctify His church... even through a Sunday morning sugar bump!

Readings for next Sunday, March 30th, the Fourth Sunday in Lent: Introit Ps. 51:2-6; Psalm 32; Isaiah 12:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

This week at Christ Lutheran Church: March 24 – March 30

Wednesday	6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner
	7:00 p.m. Lenten Vespers
	7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9:30 a.m. LifeLight
Friday	6:30 a.m. Bible & Breaky @ Broadstreet
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
	10:30 a.m. Divine Service – The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Issues, Etc.[™]

Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

YOUR LIFELINE TO THE LUTHERAN WORLDVIEW... You can listen to in-depth teachings on interesting subjects like:

*Responding to the Arguments for Atheism & Agnosticism,
Humanism vs. Faith in the Holy Trinity, LGBTQ+ Ideology in
Public Schools, The Post-Resurrected Jesus Appears in
Galilee, and more...*

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org. Simply click on “Listen”, choose “On Demand”, then select from the vast array of speakers and topics available in the archives.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102
Church phone: (601) 366-2055
www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org