

Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Mark 1:9, NRSV

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship with Holy Communion February 18, 2018 – 9:00 AM

Christ Lutheran Church Woodcliff Lake, NJ

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are glad you are here to worship today when we learn more about Martin Luther's faith and how he sings in confidence of God's gift of the power of the Spirit.

Breaking the sound barrier! We invite you to try one of our listening devices, which allows you to sit anywhere in the sanctuary. They are available by speaking to an usher, Tom Kearns or David Crouse.

Pink Prayer Cards: You may write names for prayer on a pink card found in the pew rack. Please place your card on the altar rail for inclusion in the prayers of the day. If you wish a name to be added to our printed prayer list (for four weeks) please write "Prayer List" on the card. <u>Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.</u>

Holy Communion: All who are baptized are invited to the table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and wine. At the directions of our ushers, all who are able kneel at the rail to receive this gift. The individual cups contain wine and grape juice (grape juice is in the center of the tray). A common cup with wine is also available. Children who commune should hold out their hands to the server.

Nursery Facilities: There is a self-serve Nursery and Infant Room for young children accompanied by their parents. The Infant Room contains a bathroom with a changing table. These rooms are located along the hallway from the side door of the sanctuary.

Need an offering envelope? We have envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. **We also accept checks online.** Visit our website (www.clc4u.com) and click on "Give" to learn how to set up an account with your bank information. Thank you for your gift!

Contact Information:

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel
Director of Music: Argine Safari

Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance

Parish Administrator: Doris Crouse

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Open on Sundays: 9:00 and 10:30 am

For today's worship all *portions in italics will be spoken by our worship leaders*. Congregational responses are in **bold-faced type**.

[Please stand.]

GATHERING – CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sins to God.

Merciful God,

forgive us.

Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

[A brief silence.]

We were silent when we should have said something.

[A brief silence.]

We acted when we knew better.

[A brief silence.]

We were still when we know we should have moved.

[A brief silence.]

For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People of God, look to # Jesus, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG — "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" [by Brian Doerksen] J=98 Dsus D D -ship. ___ now is the time _____ to wor Come, G Em A 5 your ___ heart. ___ now is the time _____ to give ____ Come, Dsus D D - ship. ____ to wor just as you are _____ Come, Last time to Coda ♥ G Em Α 13 your ___ God. be-fore ____ Come, just as you are _____ D G D 17 1. One day ev - 'ry tongue will con-fess ____ You are God. __ Come. 2. Will-ling-ly we choose to sur-ren - der our lives. _ D G G 21

[Song continues on the following page.]

will bow. ____

will bow. ____

One day ev - 'ry knee ___

Will-ing - ly our knees ___

Still, the great-est treas-ure re-mains_

With all our heart, __ soul, __ mind, _



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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. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON [The congregation may sit.]

THE FIRST READING – On Christian Freedom by Martin Luther

["The Freedom of a Christian" by Martin Luther. Translation by Timothy Wengert in The Annotated Luther Volume 1: The Roots of Reform, Fortress Press, 2015. 487-488]

Many people view Christian faith as something easy, and quite a few people even count it as if it were related to the virtues. They do this because they have not judged faith in light of any experience, nor have they ever tasted its great power.

This is because a person who has not tasted its spirit in the midst of trials and misfortunes cannot possibly write well about faith or understand what has

been written about it. But one who has had even a small taste of faith can never write, speak, reflect, or hear enough about it. As Christ says in John 4:[14], it is a "spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Although I cannot boast of my own abundance of faith and I also know quite well how short my own supply is, nevertheless - given that I have been troubled by great and various trials - I hope I can attain to at least a drop of faith. And I hope that I can talk about faith in a way, if not more elegant, is certainly clearer than has been done in the past by the fancy writers and the subtle disputants alike, who have not even understood their own writings.

In order to point out an easier way for common folk (for I serve only them), I am proposing two themes concerning the freedom and servitude of the spirit.

The Christian individual is a completely free lord of all, subject to none.

The Christian individual is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all.

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Mark 1:9-15 [Please stand as you are able.] Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS [The congregation may sit.]

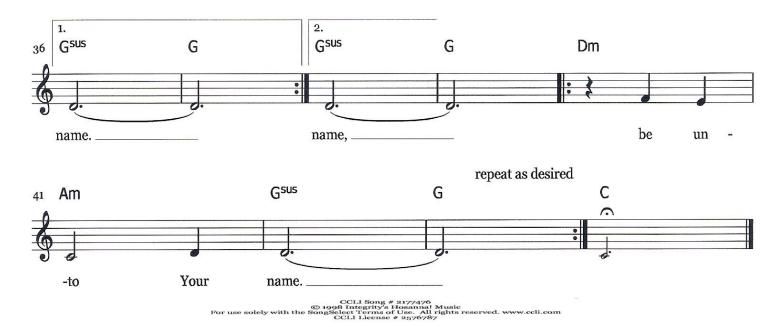
[Pink prayer cards with your joys or concerns may be placed on the altar rail.]

SERMON – "Tempted by the Fruit of Another"

SONG – "Be Unto Your Name" [Words and Music by Lynn DeShazo and Gary Sadler]



[Song continues on the following page.]



APOSTLES' CREED [Please stand.]

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 THE DAY [Please remain standing.]

Loving God, you teach us to keep nothing from you. We bring to you all our prayers, large and small, those heavy on our hearts and those known only to you.

We pray for the church. For all who preach, teach, and inspire your people to lives of service. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Tracie and all missionaries. Renew your church in ministry, mission, and compassion. Unite us in faith, and uphold us in the promises of baptism. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. For all who govern or hold positions of authority. For Donald the President, Michael the Vice President, Robert and Cory our Senators, and all who serve in the military. For those who work to make their communities safe from violence. Protect all who place themselves in danger to save others from harm. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially . . .

Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, John Bliefernich, Bill Caver, Kathy Cipoletti,
Tony Conboy, Peter Gluesing, Dot Haslun, Kim Herrera, Bo Hoag, Mae Hulburt,
Millie and Roger Hildebrand, Shiloh and Katherine Johnson, Gary Meserole,
Fred Messner, Meghan Otte, Lorraine and Jack Sadlon, Nancy Sweet, Trudy Ungar,
the people and congregation of the Metro New York Synod

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon you name. We pray for Debbie, her team, and all who follow your call. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

MISSION MOMENT – Debbie Kruegle, Missionary

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

THE 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.

[The congregation may sit.]

HOLY COMMUNION

[All are invited to the Table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and drink.

At the direction of our ushers, everyone who is able kneels at the rail.

Bread will be distributed first (gluten free wafers are available),
followed by wine and grape juice in individual cups.

A chalice with wine is also available.

Children and all who have not received First Communion will receive a blessing.
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.]

[Please stand.]

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio





DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

<u>REFLECTION</u> Pastor Marc

Today's First Reading is the opening of Martin Luther's "On Christian Freedom." Written in 1520, this short writing is one of Luther's most poetic works. After Luther posted his "95 Theses" on a church door in October, 1517, a split grew within the church. On one side was Luther, a monk and theology professor, who felt compelled to speak out about abuses in the church. On the other side was the Pope, Roman Catholic Church, and the Holy Roman Emperor. Luther's sermons and writings were widely published, making him one of the first bestselling authors. As the debate about abuses grew into a wider conversation about faith and Jesus, different people tried to reconcile the opposing sides. During one of these attempts, Luther was asked to write a "reconciliation-minded letter" to the Pope. Luther wrote the letter and attached a short writing describing the heart of his beliefs. That short writing is "On Christian Freedom."

The core subject of Luther's writing is faith itself. Using the standard writing devices of his day, he begins by talking about his experience of faith. He asserts himself as a learned authority on the subject and invites us into his writing. Luther firmly believes that faith matters, and he wants to show us why it should matter to us too. But faith isn't merely abstract thoughts located in the brain. Faith is something we live out loud. Luther moves from his invitation into his themes or how he will structure his writing. He will explore faith in two sections focused on freedom and service. And those two sections appear to be at odds with each other. In Christ, we are subject to no other person. We are as free as we can be. Yet at the same time, we are subject and bound to everyone. That everyone includes more than just our family and friends. It includes neighbors and strangers too. Luther's writing begins by making the claim that the Christian life is a paradox we get to live out.