



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 18, 2018 – 9:00 AM

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

What a gift to be here today when we learn of the mysterious power of the cross.

[Sundays and Seasons]

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. Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.

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 – “Blessed Be Your Name” [Words/Music by Matt Redman & Beth Redman]

♩=116

A

E

F#m⁷



1. Bless - ed ___ be ___ Your ___ name ___ in the land that ___ is ___ plen-
2. Bless - ed ___ be ___ Your ___ name ___ when I'm found in ___ the ___ des-
3. Bless - ed ___ be ___ Your ___ name ___ when the sun's shin - ing ___ down
4. Bless - ed ___ be ___ Your ___ name ___ on the road marked ___ with ___ suf-

4

D

A

E



- ti - ful, ___ where Your streams of ___ a - bun - dance ___ flow, ___ bless-ed ___
- ert ___ place, ___ though I walk through ___ the ___ wil - der - ness, ___ bless-ed ___
- ___ on ___ me, ___ when the world's "all ___ as ___ it ___ should ___ be." ___ bless-ed ___
- fer - ing, ___ though there's pain in ___ the ___ of - fer - ing, ___ bless-ed ___

7

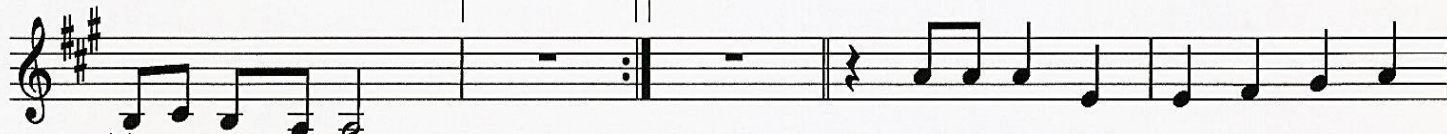
D

1, 3.

2, 4.

A

E



- ___ be Your name. ___
- ___ be Your name. ___
- ___ be Your name. ___
- ___ be Your name. ___

Ev - 'ry bless - ing You pour out I'll

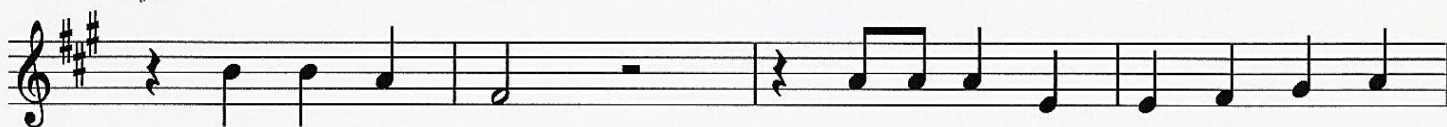
12

F#m⁷

D

A

E



turn back to praise.

When the dark - ness clos - es in, Lord,

16

F#m⁷

D

§

A

E



still I will say, "Bless-ed be the name of ___ the ___ Lord, ___ blessed be Your

20 F#m⁷ D A

name. Bless - ed be the name of ____ the Lord, ____

23 E F#m⁷ E D Last time to Coda ⊕

____ bless - ed be Your glo - ri - ous ____ name." ____

26 1. (D.C.) 2. A E

You give and take a - way, You

30 F#m⁷ D A E

give and take a - way. My heart will choose to say, "Lord,

34 F#m⁷ 1. D 2. D D.S. al Coda

Bless - ed be Your name." You name." Bless-ed be the

⊕ Coda D A

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.

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. 521]

The Christian Life

Thus, after Paul had taught the Philippians how they were made rich through faith in Christ (in which faith they had obtained all things), he then teaches them by saying, "If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others."

Here we clearly see that the Apostle places the life of Christians into this framework, so that all of our works may be ordered toward the advantage of others. Since each and every person thus thrives through their own faith - so that all other works and the sum total of life flows out from that very faith - by these works each may serve and benefit the neighbor with willing benevolence. To this end, Paul introduces Christ as an example, stating: "Let the same mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard himself to be equal to God, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, made in human likeness, and being found in human vesture...became obedient to the point of death."

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. John 12:20-33

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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.

²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder.

Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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 — “*Last Time Forever*”

SONG – Thy Word"

Words and Music by
Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

♩=70

E B/D# E A/C# B E

Thy Word is a lamp un-to _ my feet and a light un-to my path.

5 B/D# E A/C# B E Last time Fine

Thy Word is a lamp un-to _ my feet and a light un-to my path.

9 B F#m C#m G#m A B

1. When I feel _ a-fraid, and I think I've lost _ my way, still You're there right be -
2. I will not _ for-get Your _ love for me, _ and yet my heart for - ev - er is

12 A/E E B F#m C#m G#m

-side _ me. Noth-ing will _ I fear as _ long as You _ are near.
wan - der - ing. Je - sus, be _ my guide and _ hold me to _ Your side;

15 A B B/C# C# B^{sus} B D.C.

Please be near me to the end. _____
I will love You to the end. _____

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.

SERVICE OF HEALING

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing. [A brief silence.]

[Please remain standing.]

PRAYERS OF THE DAY

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. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and service. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, evangelists, pastors, prophets, teachers, and all servants of the church. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. For countries embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. We pray for Donald, the President; Philip, the Governor; Carlos, the Mayor; and all elected leaders in the towns we call home. Grant wisdom to all decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the well-being of all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For all who suffer in any way. For those who are lonely or isolated. For those seeking employment. For those who approach the hour of their death, and all who are ill, especially . . .

**Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Kristine Ariatabar, John Bliefernich, Bill Caver,
Kathy Cipoletti, Tony Conboy, Peter Gluesing, Kim Herrera, Bo Hoag,
Mae Hulburt, Millie and Roger Hildebrand, Shiloh and Katherine Johnson,
Marie Kober, Florence Leonard, Meghan Otte, Joyanna Peros,
Lorraine and Jack Sadlon, Nancy Sweet, Trudy Ungar, Camp Koinonia**

*Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.*

LAYING ON OF HANDS

[All who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of your lives may come to receive a blessing. The laying on of hands and anointing of oil, signs first given in baptism, tells us we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ.]

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of that healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

All are invited to come to the rail, in two lines down the center aisle, to receive a sign of healing and wholeness through the anointing and laying on of hands.

[At the rail, the pastor will make the sign of the cross on each forehead using oil. This anointing will be followed by the following words.]

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.

[Once everyone has returned to their seats, we continue with the prayers.]

*Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.*

*Turn our hearts to praise as we are forgiven, healed, and freed from every evil that binds us. Shine your light upon us, so that nothing about our life in you is hidden.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.*

Resurrecting God, we remember those who now worship at your throne, and with expectant hearts we await the day when all will behold you in glory.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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. 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.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG – “This Is Amazing Grace”

♩=100 **VERSE 1**

D

G²(no3)



1. Who breaks the pow - er of sin and dark-ness, whose love is might - y ____

4

Bm

A



and so much strong - er? ____ The King of glo - ry, the King a - bove all ____ kings. _

VERSE 2

D

7

G²(no3)



2. Who shakes the whole earth with ho - ly thun - der

11

G²(no3)

Bm



and leaves us breath - less in awe and won - der? ____ The King of glo - ry,

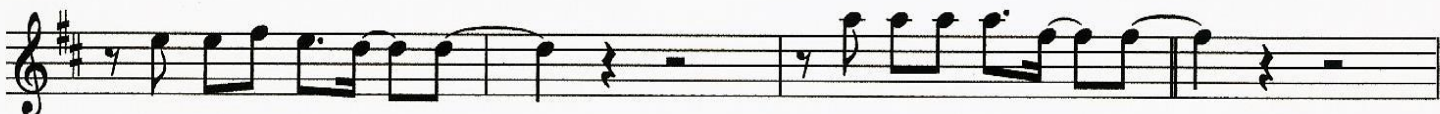
§ **CHORUS**

D

14

A

G²(no3)

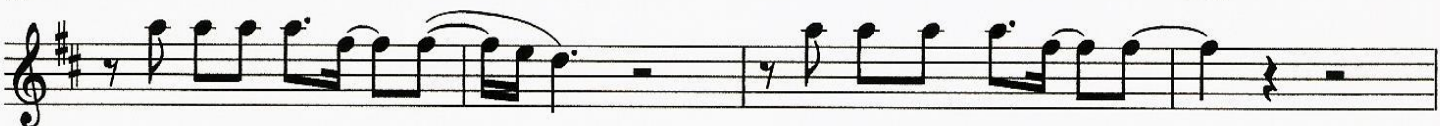


the King a - bove all ____ kings. ____ This is a - maz - ing _ grace, ____

18

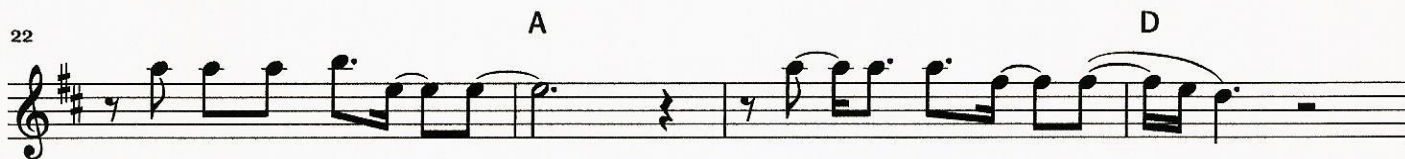
G

Bm



this is un - fail - ing _ love, ____ that You would take my _ place, ____

[Song continues on the following page.]



that You would bear my _ cross. _

You _ laid down Your _ life _



that I would be _ set free. _

Oh, _ Je-sus, I sing _ for

INSTRUMENTAL



all that You've done for _ me.

VERSE 3



3. Who brings our cha - os



back in - to ord - er,

who makes the or - phan _

a son and daugh - ter? _

VERSE 4



The King of glo - ry,

the King of glo - ry.

4. Who rules the na - tions




with truth and jus - tice, _

shines like the sun in _

all of its bril - liance? _

45 Bm A




The King of glo - ry, the King a - bove all ____ kings. ____

47 G²(no3) D.S. al Coda



____ Yeah, ____ this is a - maz - ing ____ grace,

49 Coda A D



all that You've done _ for me. ____

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Pastor Marc

Where does faith happen? For Luther, faith happens in us. Faith is not an abstract concept or an idea detached from everything. Faith is a gift from God and that gift is given to people. We have a tendency to talk about faith as if it's separate from actual people. We act as if there's some kind of "true" or "pure" faith that we could store in a bottle. We would point to that bottle of faith to show others what true faith looks like. But that's not how my faith works. Faith is for people which means faith needs people. We can't reasonably separate faith from the people who experience it. So faith is more than something we have. Faith is, above all, lived.

And that lived faith is, for Luther, expressed in our relationships to one another. As we heard earlier in his writing, faith is the source of who we are. Faith is a deep seeded trust in God and God's care for you. And how do we know that God cares about us? Because, through faith, we discover that God sent Jesus not only for the world; but for you too. Faith is a gift that trusts in God's promises. And that trust makes us free. There is nothing we can do to earn God's love or God's attention. There's nothing we can think up that might bring us closer to God. Rather God comes to us, freeing us from the need to cross the uncrossable chasm separating us from God. So God, through Christ, builds a bridge across the gap we cannot cross.

Since we are free from trying to get God's attention, we are then freed to live a life that trusts God. And that life, as we see in our reading today, is one that looks to our neighbor's needs first. This life lives for other people before it lives for our self. As Lutherans, we know that a Christian is more than someone who accepts a certain kind of belief. A Christian is also someone who lives the faith out loud. This kind of living is not easy, and it does ask us to do difficult things. But being a Christian means we have a new name that invites us into a new way of living. "Without a doubt we are named after Christ - not absent from us but dwelling in us; in other words: provided that we believe in him and that, in turn and mutually, we are a second Christ to one another, doing for our neighbors as Christ does for us." Pg. 525.