**Third Sunday of Lent**

**March 3, 2024**

**9:30am**

**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

www.christlutheranlb.com

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[www.clplb.com](http://www.clplb.com)

**Welcome to worship! We’re glad you’re here!**

To assist in your worship:

**bold** print means we respond together

**\*** meansstand as you are able,

+ you may make the sign of the cross should you so desire.

**TODAY’S worship THEME**

The third covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the central one of Israel’s history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God’s liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

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**PRELUDE** *Amazing Grace* Claudia Fitpatrick – Cello

Lonnie Timney - Cello

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Holy God, **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin** **and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors** **are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know,** **forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A sheet music with text and notes

Description automatically generated**\*GATHERING SONG** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW #324*

**\*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 together. *A brief silence***. Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** *After this time, children will be invited to Sunday school. They will return during the passing of the peace.*

**FIRST READING** Exodus 20:1-17 PewBible Old Testament Pg.73

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 PewBible New Testament Pg. 173

  Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Return to the Lord ELW pg.142*

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**\*GOSPEL** John 2:13-22 Pew Bible New Testament Pg. 96

The Holy Gospel according to John the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Pastor Nikki Fielder

**\*SERMON SONG** *Canticle of the Turning ELW #723*



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**\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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 CHURCH**

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** *Nuovo Cinema Paradiso* Claudia Fitpatrick – Cello

Lonnie Timney - Cello

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Create in Me a Clean Heart ELW #186*

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**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together: **Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING**  *Holy, Holy, Holy ELW pg.207*

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

…with this bread and cup, we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

…Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

… Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

… blessed and holy Trinity, 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.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

We believe that this is Jesus' table. All are welcome and invited to commune.  We serve communion by “intinction”; receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of red wine. Currently we are offering individual communion cups as an alternative to intinction if you so desire. Both wine and grape juice (white) are offered in the tray. Gluten free bread is available; let your server know. Should you choose not to commune, please come forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**lamb of god** *O Lamb of God ELW pg.#208*

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Description automatically generated**COMMUNION SONG** *How Great Thou Art ELW #856*



**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together. **Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**\*BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING** **SONG** *Thy Word*

Chorus:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
(Repeat)

When I feel afraid  
Think I've lost my way  
Still you're there right beside me  
And nothing will I fear  
As long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end

(Chorus)

I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide  
And hold me to your side  
I will love you to the end

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end

(Chorus)

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *The Heavens are Telling* Claudia Fitpatrick – Cello

Haydn Lonnie Timney - Cello



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**  Rev. Nicole Fielder, pastor@christlutheranlb.com

**Office Manager** Kim Croes, [officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

**Preschool Director** Lisa Clinton, info@clplb.com

**Interim Choir Director** Kim Philips, kimsings@msn.com

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**A/V Technician** Brad Croes

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

**It is our joy to worship with your whole family this morning!**

We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to worship together. If you do need to take a "time out", please do so in the narthex (gathering space at the entry), and return to worship when you are ready. A changing table is located in the restroom off the narthex. Activity bags, filled with crayons, paper and storybooks, are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

**Mission Statement**

Living by Christ’s example, we welcome, serve, and love all through God’s grace.

**Vision Statement**

Embracing the truth that God’s love and grace is for all, Christ Lutheran Church is a vibrant and active community spreading the good news through acceptance, action, and benevolence.

**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

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