**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 19, 2023**

**9:30am**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

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[www.clclb.com](http://www.clclb.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**

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. “I was blind, now I see,” declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.



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**GATHERING**

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

**PRELUDE** Roger Halvorson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CONfession & forgiveness (**Please stand)

*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 journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess to you our faults and failings.** **Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion.** **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,** **as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ☩ forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness #843*

**\*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. *A brief silence* **Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*Children will be invited to Sunday school following this time.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 5:8-14 PewBible New Testament Pg.207

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

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** Psalm 23 PewBible Old Testament Pg. 553

1The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
**2He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;** 3he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
 **4Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
 your rod and your staff — they comfort me.**  
 5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
 **6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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**\*GOSPEL** John 9:1-41 Pew Bible New Testament Pg. 105

The Holy Gospel according to John the 9th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**SERMON**

**\*SERMON SONG** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* #815

**\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, And his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** *Be Ye Glad* Chancel Choir



**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** Create in Me a Clean Heart

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**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together**, God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of the gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Jesus Christ, the wellspring of eternal life. 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…

And so, with all the choirs of angels…and join their unending hymn;

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

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**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe…

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.**

…we praise you, O God, 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.



**lamb of god**

Table

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**COMMUNION SONGS** *By Your Hand You Feed Your People* #469

*In The Singing* #466

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray, **Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord looks upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN** *Lead Me, Guide Me* #768

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Roger Halvorson

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**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Interim Pastor**  Rev. Laurie Arroyo, lauriethere@msn.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

**Percussionist** Nathan Latiolait

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

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

**CHILDCARE**

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.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*Christ Is Alive!*

**OUR VISION STATEMENT**

*Christ Lutheran Church is a community of believers committed to praising our Savior Jesus Christ. With his love, we reach out to those in need and welcome all with open hearts. Our worship dynamically combines, word, song and prayer to share God’s incredible message. Having faith in this, we go forth knowing that with God and the power of the Holy Spirit, anything is possible.*

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