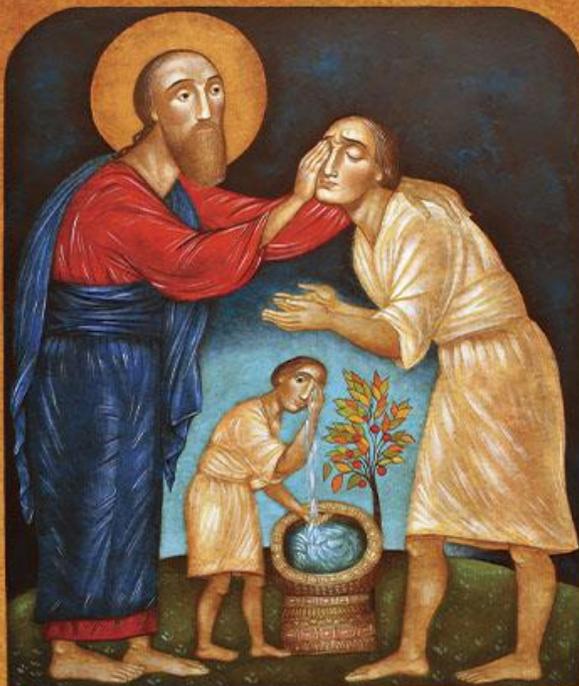


Christ Lutheran Church
115 Church Street, Duncannon, PA 17020
717.834.3140
Pastor Jennifer Toburen
Organist – Joe Abate
www.clcduncannon.org



Lord,
I believe

JOHN 9:38

Sunday, March 15, 2026
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude**Announcements**

Congregation please stand

OPENING/CALL TO WORSHIP

P: From water to wilderness:

**C: God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

P: On stone and in hearts;

**C God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

P: From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

**C: God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.**

P: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

C: for where he is, we would be also.

From: *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion – Year C, Vol. 1*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long, p. 102.

PREPARING

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 who forgives all our sin,
 whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
 and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
 Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
 Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
 and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
 and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
 and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
 Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"

ELW 520

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
 Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER. Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

Vieme to, Panez. Bože náš

Leader



Oĭce nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.

- | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------|-----|
| 1 | O God, Father in | heav - en, | have mer - cy | up - on | us. |
| 2 | O Son of God, redeemer | of the world, | have mer - cy | up - on | us. |
| 3 | O God, Holy | Spir - it, | have mer - cy | up - on | us. |

All



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
 Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
 c - vil, ev - 'ry woc; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
 sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
 Music: ZŇAME TO, PANE BOŽE NÁŠ, *Tranoscius*, 1636
 Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House

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Prayer of the Day

**Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's light we pray.
Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD [|] is my shepherd;
I shall not [|] be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down [|] in green pastures
and leads me be- [|] side still waters.**

³ You restore my [|] soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways [|] for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall [|] fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they [|] comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence [|] of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is [|] running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days [|] of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the [|] LORD forever.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Congregation please stand

Christ Lutheran Church

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jennifer

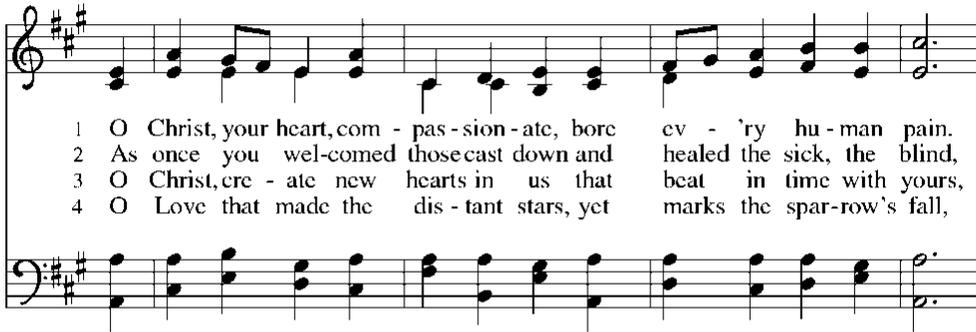
Congregation please stand

Hymn of the Day

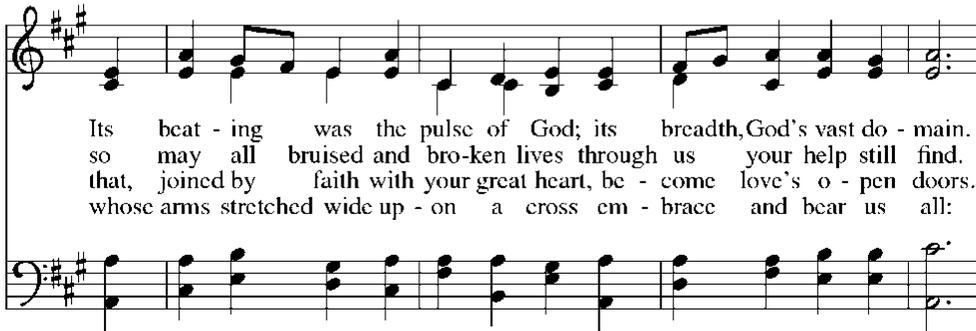
"O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"

ELW 722

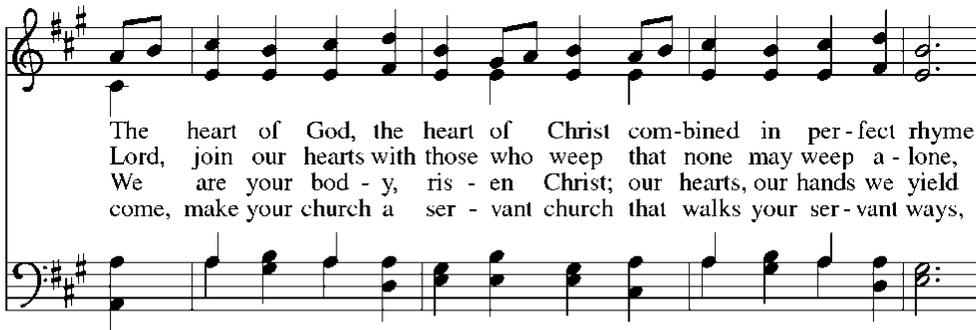
O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate



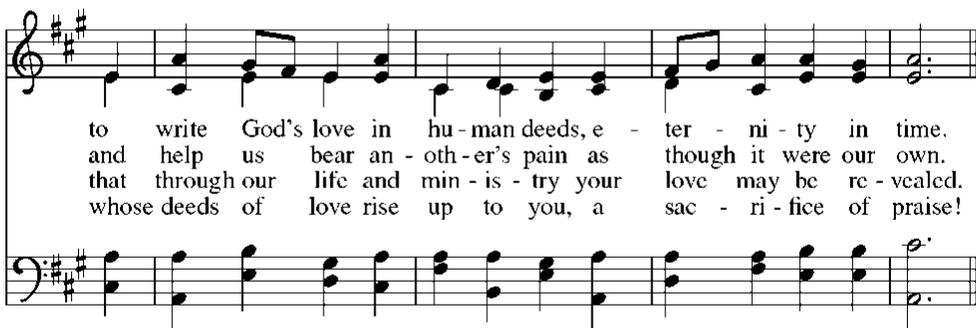
1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
 so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
 that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
 whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
 We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
 come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
 and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
 that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
 whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
 Music: ELLACOMBE. German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Harlig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833
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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.**

Sign of Peace

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

Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name’s sake.....Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. We pray for all people living precariously in the midst of war. Protect, we pray, citizens and soldiers alike, and teach us to put away our weapons, taking up instead words of peace and reconciliation.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Bring healing to those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. We pray for Shirley, Allan, Charlotte, Joanne, Jack, Cathy, Roxy, Karen, Darlene, Ron, Chuck, Jessie, Helen, Carol, Millie, Lillian, Marian, Peggy, Glenn, Sandy and Lisa. Care for all in special need this day.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

God our friend, help us to see the world as you see it; to see others as you see them; and to see ourselves rightly, too. Pursue us all with your goodness and faithful love until goodness and faithful love fills every heart and informs every action.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys, especially Joanne. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

Stewardship Snippet – 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.

Lector - We will now worship God with our offering.

Offertory



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
 sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
 Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

MEAL

P Let us pray,

C Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you

C And also 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 our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

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.

O God of resurrection and new life:
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Bless this feast.
 Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
 Holy One of Israel,
 Word of God incarnate,
 Power of the Most High,
 one God, now and forever.

Amen.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

P So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who are wandering still.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Amen.

Please be seated

Lamb of God

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.

Holy Communion

494, 778, 496,

Prepackaged communion is available for those who wish to remain in the pews.

Communion Hymns

Congregation please stand

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

Post Communion Hymn

☩ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. A - men, a - men.

Post Communion Prayer

P God of our salvation,
 we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
 reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
 Through the body and blood of your Son,
 may we become Christ's body in the world,
 bearing witness to your love for all creation,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

Charge

These Lenten days will take us to the cross of Christ.
Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone.
Nor do we have to be afraid,
for the Word of God strengthens us and the Holy Spirit
sustains us.

Blessing

May the love of God pursue you,
the light of Christ enfold you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you;
as you dwell in the house of the Lord
your whole life long.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”

ACS 954

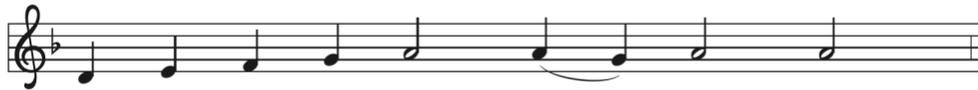
You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



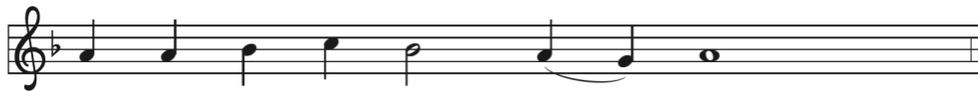
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



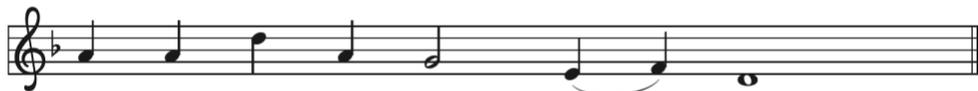
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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P We at Christ Lutheran Church are
C **God's called, Loved Children who serve.**
P Go in Peace. The living Word dwells in you.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Sexton: Judy Swartz - Email: gammy2072@gmail.com

Prayer Concerns

Shirley Hoffman, Pat Reich, Elyse Brown, Allan Imler, Sylvia Webb & the Indian Mobile Mission, Join Hands, Loads of Love, Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Brian Proctor, Joanne Reisinger, Jackie Maguire, Jack Smith, Cathy Cavanaugh, Charlotte Dyer, Rachelle Gilcrease, Roxy Huss, Karen Ersoz, Carol Darr, Darlene Johnson, Ron Hoffman, Ron & Nancy Moore, Chuck Hoffman, Helen Huss, Jessie Frye, Carol Shumaker, Millie Bell, Lillian Kistler, Marian Hoffman, Hope Kominek, Matthew Landis, Peggy Paden, Glenn Shumaker, Tonya Sands, Chris Hope, Velma Wittlinger, Lindsey Melnick, Judy Moore, Craig Magee, Donna Kistler, Kristen Gaisior, Charlene McBride, Gay Weller, Sandy Hoover, the family of Clyde Jr, Frank Valentine, the family of Doug Leonhard, Lisa Dubay, Shelly Hill, the family of Joanne Speis.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector/prayers – Ernie Meisel
Next Sunday – Joe Abate

Wine – Beverly Reifsnyder
Next Sunday – Ann Fleisher

Grape Juice – Jean Tota
Next Sunday – Bill Brookhart

Altar Guild – Ann Fleisher
Next Sunday – Barbara Still

Counters – Becky Meisel, Sue Landis
Next Sunday - Kendra Masser, Joe Kistler

Ushers – Team 1
Allan Imler, Ann Fleisher,
Brianne Chubb, Adam Still

SUNDAY, March 15th, 2026

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Worship service – 11:00am – Holy Communion
Bible Study – 7pm - Zoom
Dinner Church Planning Meeting following worship

MONDAY, March 16th, 2026

TUESDAY, March 17th, 2026

Bible Study – 1pm – Zoom
Anniversary – Beverly & Jake Reifsnyder

WEDNESDAY, March 18th, 2026

Midweek Lenten Service – 7pm

THURSDAY, March 19th, 2026

LWR Quilters – 1pm

FRIDAY, March 20th, 2026

SATURDAY, March 21st, 2026

SUNDAY, March 22nd, 2026

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Worship service – 11:00 am – Holy Communion
Congregational Meeting following the worship service
Bible Study – 7pm - Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noisy Offering - Today is Noisy Offering Sunday. All offering collected will go to Christ Lutheran Church (Harrisburg) to support the Medical Outreach and Dental Clinics which are housed within the church and serve the Allison Hill Community. Both clinics operate as a free, walk in service available Monday through Friday. Since 2004 the Medical Clinic has been offering compassionate and comprehensive care in partnership with Penn State Health and Holy Spirit Hospital. While Penn State Health provides experienced nurses, the church supplies essential medical resources.

The Dental Clinic began its mission in 2010. It operates through the generosity of local dentists who volunteer their time along with dental assistants. A translator is available for non-English speaking patients to explain procedures and follow up care.

Over the years, these clinics have made a substantial impact, serving hundreds of thousands in the Harrisburg area.

Congregational Meeting – A special Congregational Meeting will be held on March 22nd, following the worship service for the purpose of approving the Long Term Pastoral Sharing Agreement with Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. A quorum is required to conduct the business of the church. Please plan to attend. The meeting will also be offered on Zoom.

Easter Lilies – The cost of lilies is \$16.99 for a 6 inch pot with 5-6 blooms. Orders and payment are due March 15th. Please see Jean Tota.

Sign up sheet for Dinner Church – If you plan to attend Dinner Church on Wednesday, April 1st, please see Cindy B to sign up. There is a planning meeting scheduled for today following worship for anyone who would like to attend.

Live streaming assistance for Lisa – Lisa is recuperating from ankle surgery. She will be in need of some assistance livestreaming the worship service on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. Please see Lisa or Pastor Jenn if you are able to help.

Social Ministry Project for March – Blessing Bags - During this season of Lent we will once again be gathering items that will be used to create “Blessing Bags” for our neighbors in need. The list of items that we will need are as follows:

Water Bottles (16 oz size)

Chapstick

Granola Bars

Individuals Packs of Trail Mix, Nuts, Crackers

Instant Oatmeal Packages

Gum

Hard Candies

Kleenex – travel size

We will assemble the bags as part of our Dinner Church worship service on Wednesday, April 1st and we will bless the bags on Easter Sunday. After that, they will be available for church members to take a couple of these to carry with you in the car so that if you come across someone who is in need you will have a bag of supplies ready to offer! Let us offer light and hope in a weary world!

March Meetings/Events

March 18 – Midweek Lenten service – 7pm.

March 24 – Community Outreach committee meeting – 7pm - Zoom

March 25 – Final midweek Lenten service – 7pm.

April Meeting/Events

April 1 – Dinner Church – 6pm.

April 2 – Maundy Thursday Service – **5pm.**

April 3 – Good Friday Service – **5pm.**

April 5 – Easter Sunrise Service – 7am.

Traditional Worship – **8:30am.**

April 6 – Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser planning meeting – 6pm.

Finance committee meeting – 7pm – Zoom

April 9 – Church Council meeting – 6:30pm.

April 21 – Twin Kiss (Shermansdale) Fundraiser

April 25 – Earth Day at Clark’s Ferry Tavern

April 28 – Community Outreach committee meeting – 7pm - Zoom

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 15, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Unbelievable!

This story from the Gospel of John captures the religious leadership in Jerusalem in a struggle to understand this Jesus who restores sight to a person born blind. This miraculous healing is so unbelievable, so contrary to the leaders' understanding, that they reject it altogether, even accusing the man of lying. Their quest for a certainty that feels familiar forces them to reject the miracle in front of them and closes them off to a greater truth—that the Messiah has come in Christ Jesus.

Certainty and its pursuit often disrupt our ability to see reality, which is at its core a mystery. *Mystery* in the Christian tradition refers to that deep truth that surpasses our understanding, as in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity or the efficacy of the sacraments. We know them as true, but not how or why they are so. Mysteries transcend the world of certainty, and our efforts to possess certainty, like those of the religious leaders in John 9, can cut us off from something miraculous happening right in front of us.

How much conflict and division in our church and in our world is amplified by our pursuit of certainty? How many possibilities have we missed in our commitment to the way things are? How often in our pursuit of certainty do we use it to hoard power and keep others on the outside looking in? Certainty is the enemy of community because it rejects the very notion that God may be doing a new thing.

Embracing mystery in our life of faith looks like learning to say “I don't know,” “Maybe,” and “What if . . . ?” It asks us to let go of our need to control and understand, and to trust God's promises more than our evidence. Mystery requires a posture of humility and curiosity, a willingness to look for God in inexplicable and unbelievable places and events. After all, we preach Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23), an unbelievable notion if ever there was one.