

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

## February 26, 2023 – First Sunday in Lent

***Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life***

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Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

**WELCOME** ***(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)***

*Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.*

**PRELUDE**

***Lift Up Your Heads***

**Men's Ensemble**

**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 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**    *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (THIRD MODE MELODY) (ELW 332)*



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889  
 Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585

**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.**

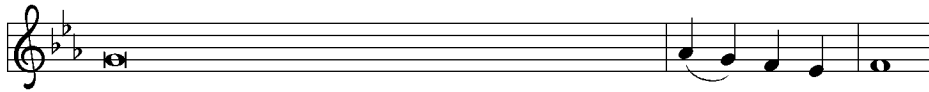
**KYRIE (ELW p. 98)**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



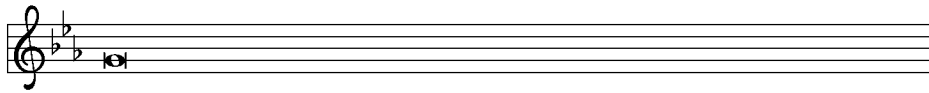
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



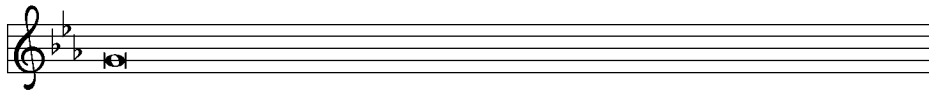
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **TIME WITH CHILDREN**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>12</sup>Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—<sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

One does not live by bread alone, **but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.** (Matt. 4:4)

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'  
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'"

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## *If You But Trust in God to Guide You (ELW 769)*



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less  
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and  
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's  
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -  
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.  
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite  
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark  
 Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress

## **CREED (ELW p. 104)**

**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 INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

God of Joy. Thank you for bringing us together here today and thank you for all of the blessings in our lives. Thank you for the free gift of your grace. We all fall short in different ways, but we know that you love us and watch over us, and we have eternal life thanks to you. Help us to share your love and our many blessings with our neighbors here in Athens and around the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort, many people are dealing with problems caused by war, weather, disasters, and other emergencies. Many people face stress, anxiety, sadness. Many people feel alone and helpless. We ask you to help them as they face different challenges, and we ask you to help us to follow your example as we show them love, provide them with comfort, and give them hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**God of Love**, thank you for being with us in good times and in bad. We all may feel lost or unsure at times but help us to remember that you are always with us to help us, guide us and love us. And please also help us to remember that while we are all different in so many ways, we are all Your children because You made us in Your image. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, so many people live in danger and in fear in our world. Please be with everyone whose lives are filled with danger of any sort. We ask you to help our leaders around the world to work for peace instead of conflict. Please protect those who serve in the military, comfort military families, and bless our veterans. We ask you to also bless all refugees and help them to find comfort, respect, and acceptance. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Compassion, we ask you to comfort those experiencing grief and loss and to relieve those who are suffering. Please also bring strength to those who are hospitalized, confined to homes, or undergoing tests. We pray for healing for anyone who is ill in mind, body, or spirit. Restore to wholeness those who are struggling with addictions. Bless our shut-ins and help us to bring them joy. Please hear us now as we ask for blessings for those we name aloud or in our hearts..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort, be with those to whom death draws near and those who have lost loved ones. Bring peace and comfort to all who mourn; knowing with the conviction of our faith that

because you so loved the world that you gave your Chosen Son, who died and rose again, we too will have eternal life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!


## OFFERTORY

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Men's Ensemble

## OFFERTORY SONG

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,  
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
and gather us at your table of celebration.  
Strengthen us to share with all the world  
the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**



## DIALOGUE

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.**

## PREFACE

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 (ELW p. 108)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,

and provided them water from the rock.  
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.  
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.  
Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.  
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

**LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)**

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

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.

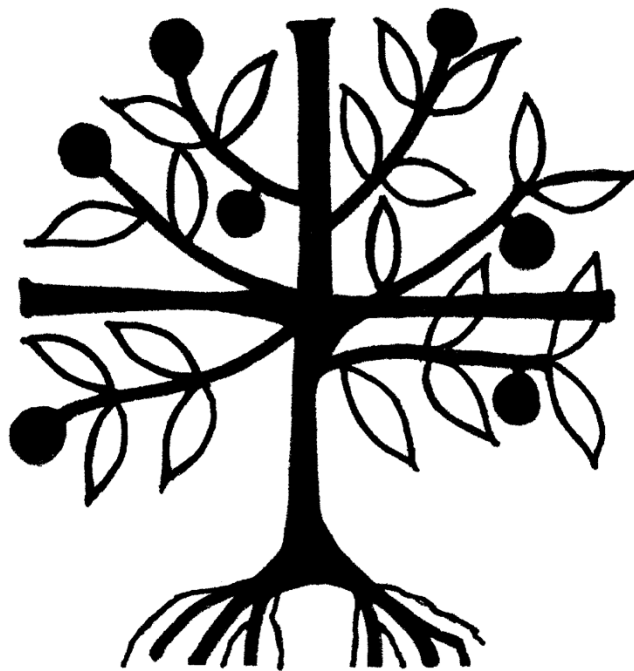
**Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

God, the giver of love,  
✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**



# SENDING SONG

## Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God (ELW 458)



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing be to God our  
 2 Not our own ho - li - ness, nor that we have  
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come in vis - i -  
 4 Praise to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



mak - er, source of all bless - ing, prod - i - gal cre -  
 striv - en brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have  
 ta - tion; you are the truth, our hope, and our sal -  
 Spir - it: one Lord, one faith, one source of ev - 'ry



a - tor. Bap - tized and made your own, now we come be -  
 giv - en. Bap - tized and set a - part, strength - en us, O  
 va - tion. Bap - tize with joy and pow'r, give, O Dove de -  
 mer - it. Here now re - new your church through this sym - bol



fore you, and we a - dore you.  
 Sav - ior, with grace and fa - vor.  
 scend - ing, life nev - er end - ing.  
 giv - en; grant peace from heav - en.

Text: H. Francis Yardley, 1911–1990; Frank J. Whiteley, b. 1914, alt.  
 Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681  
 Text © 1969 H. Francis Yardley and Frank J. Whiteley

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERVING TODAY:** *Preside/Preacher:* Chad Huebner; *Organist:* George Weckman; *Asst/Lector:* Mike Cleland;  
*Time with Children:* Cheryl Huebner; *Livestream:* Doug Debrick; *Greeter:* Anne Sparks; *Ushers:* Andrew Kirsop,  
 Catie Perez-Strohmeyer; *Acolyte:* Meena Juedes; *Children's Church:* Tammy Thompson, Rachel Prange