



The 3rd Sunday in Lent 2023: Worship at 9:30 a.m.

This Sunday's Gospel begins where last week's ended, going on as Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray aright. We know this passage as 'The Lord's Prayer', *the* most familiar prayer in Christianity. It is part of our baptismal vows, our catechetical learning, our private devotions and public worship. But it is more than a prayer to be memorized: it is a gift, a model prayer and guide for each one who trusts in Christ.

Our worship order is contained in this booklet. The people's parts are indicated by **bold** type. The red hardback hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, is our main worship resource for hymns and song. You can find hymns in the second half of the book, and are numbered at the top of each hymn. Occasionally, worship may veer from the printed bulletin – just follow the Spirit!

A warm welcome whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God's Word together. We welcome you to the Lord's Table this morning. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.

Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129

Gathering

PRAYER AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

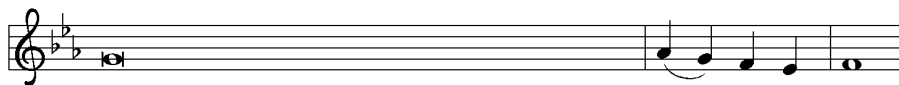
PRELUDE: *A time for prayerful preparation. Please stand at pastor's invitation*



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.



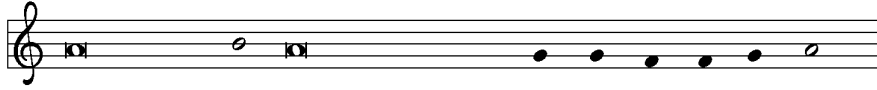
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



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

CONFESSIO

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, sovereign of the universe,
for you have preserved us and brought us to this day.

Blessed be God forever!

The sacrifice God desires is a contrite and ready heart;
Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love.

Silence for reflection

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings.

We have neglected your holy word;

we keep 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.

Through our Lenten journey renew us, O Lord
 that we may grow as disciples of Christ
 and live out our faith according to your purpose. Amen.

WE SING THE GATHERING SONG #742, ELW: WHAT A FRIEND



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Let us pray: *the Prayer of the Day is offered and concludes:* one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Word

The first lesson is from Exodus, the 17th chapter. (Exodus 17:1-7)

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there

for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?” The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95 is read responsively.

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture
and the sheep of God’s hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

⁸**“Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger,
‘They shall never come to my rest.’” **Amen.**

The Second Reading is from Romans, the 5th chapter. (Romans 5:1-11)

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might

actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Return to God, with all your heart, the font of grace and mercy:

Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.** (Matthew 6:7 – 14)

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

WE SING THE HYMN OF THE DAY #745, LORD TEACH US HOW TO PRAY

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**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need of healing and wholeness.

A brief silence.

*A brief silence. We pray for the world, our community, and all in need of healing and wholeness from God. Each petition concludes: Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.***

Merciful God, guide us on this Lenten journey to Easter joy, renewed in faith as the Body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen**

Following the hymn, please stand at Pastor's invitation.

Meal

THE PEACE

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

We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words with a wave, placing a hand over our hearts, even a little bow in whatever touchless way you choose.

Following the peace, please be seated.

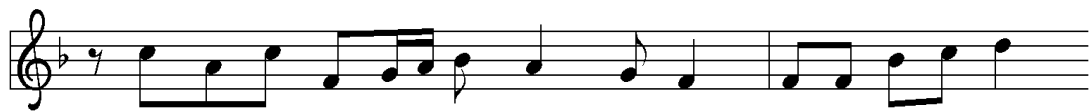
OFFERTORY/ANTHEM

The offering is gathered as we offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. In house or joining us online tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



GATHERING AND PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

As the offering is presented we stand and sing the OFFERTORY



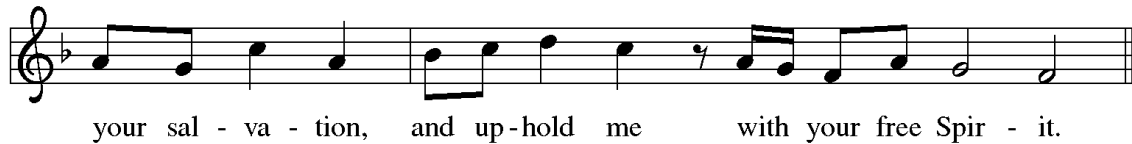
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



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



Let us pray –*Silence*- Father,
All we call our own comes from You,
gifts of Your mercy and a sign of your love.
Let these gifts we return to You be a symbol of our whole lives,
given with grateful hearts to become a blessing to others.
We pray in the Name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Table is prepared as we pray and prepare our hearts.

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 our duty and our joy to give you thanks O God
For you created us in your own image,
and blessed us with all we could ever want or need.

When we turned away, you reached across sin and separation
and sent your Son clothed in our humanity.

He reached out to the hurting, the ill and the outcast
in compassion and healing,
calling all people to repent, and come to your mercy.

On the cross Jesus was obedient to your will
and on him are the wounds that make us whole.

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.

O God strengthen us as we gather around your Table
Giving You all praise and glory in the Spirit
as we pray with trust and hope for the coming of the Kingdom
in the prayer our Savior gave us:

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

AGNUS DEI... "Just As I Am," ELW #592 verses 1 & 3

Just as I am, without one plea
 but that thy blood was shed for me,
 and that thou bid'st me come to thee
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 because thy promise I believe
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
 Blessed are we who are called to his table.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
 but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

THE COMMUNION

All who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that He is truly present in the forms of bread and wine are invited to commune. You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation that you wish.

Following the communion the Table is cleared. Please stand at Pastor's invitation.

The hymn during communion is #481, Come to the Table:



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Sending

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. *-Silence-* Holy God, loving Father:

**You have welcomed us to your Table,
and we have been fed and forgiven.
In this Lenten journey strengthen us to be faithful in prayer,
refreshed by fasting, and generous in charity,
going into the world blessed to be a blessing.
In the name of Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

MISSION, MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Silence for reflection.

Following the announcements, at pastor's invitation, please stand.

THE BENEDICTION

My Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever. **Amen**

WE SING THE SENDING SONG ELW #335, JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

DISMISSAL & SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE