



The 4th Sunday in Lent 2025 Worship at 9:30 a.m. 30 March 2025

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the parent at the return of his prodigal child. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

*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.

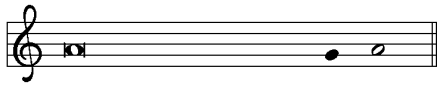
Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.

Gathering

PRAYER AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

THE KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



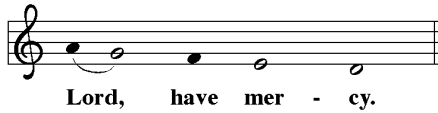
Lord, have mer - cy.



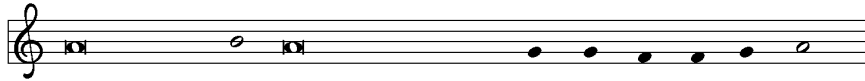
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father:

**In mercy you have called us your own,
But we have chosen cheap grace.**

The sacrifice God desires is a contrite and ready heart;

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love.

Silence for reflection

Hear our repentance, O God, and renew our baptismal promises:

**to walk as Your faithful people
taking the Word into our hearts
and nurturing our lives by worship and prayer.**

Strengthen us to proclaim Christ in words and actions,

**To care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.**

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 forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
that we may grow as disciples of Christ
and live out our faith according to your purpose. Amen.**

WE SING THE GATHERING SONG #843, PRAISE THE ONE (ON NEXT PAGE)



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

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 Joshua, the 5th chapter. (Joshua 5:9-12)

⁹The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 is read responsively.

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING is from 2 Corinthians, the 5th chapter. (1 Cor. 5:16-21)

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: #517, v. 1, LORD KEEP US STEADFAST

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.
and bring to naught all he has done.

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Luke, the 15th chapter. (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#517, v. 2, LORD KEEP US STEADFAST

**Lord Jesus Christ your power make known, for you are Lord of lords alone
defend your holy church that we may sing your praise eternally.**

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

WE SING THE HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #723, CANTICLE OF THE TURNING (NEXT PAGE)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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

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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray that we may be renewed as followers of Christ, for the whole church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the world, our community, and all in need of healing and wholeness from God. Each petition concludes:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to strengthen us to walk as witnesses to your mercy and justice; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Meal

THE PEACE

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

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the Lord's name, saying "Peace be with you," or a similar greeting. 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.



PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

As the offering is presented we stand and sing the OFFERTORY.



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.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray –*Silence*- Merciful God,

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:



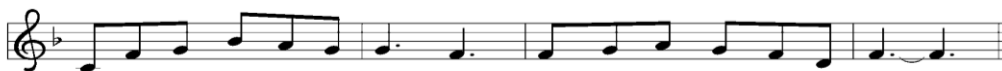
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



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

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

THE BENEDICTION

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

WE SING THE SENDING SONG ELW #251, MY SOUL PROCLAIMS



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
353 E. Dark Hollow Rd, Pipersville PA 18947

The Rev. Marie Caron, Pastor
Mr. Brian Maddux, Council President
Mrs. Cynthia Carper, Parish Secretary

215. 766. 8730
www.christpipersville.org + christpipersville@gmail.com

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP can be seen on Facebook Live and Zoom. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to our website (www.christpipersville.org).

THE MARCH WEB SITE is sponsored by the Campbells in loving memory of Henry and Hattie Fretz.
THE MARCH BULLETINS are sponsored by Pastor Caron and Mike in memory of Pr. Caron's father, David Caron.

LECTOR: John Cole

FELLOWSHIP HOST: The Hopfs

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Luray Minkiewicz (H,St), Patrick McCarthy (H,St), Barb H (H,R) and the family and friends of George Adams (Beth Swope's father) and David Little as they mourn their deaths. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

SOUPER LENTEN WEDNESDAYS are being held at noon on Wednesdays through April 16th. See the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board to help provide soup, bread and other items for the meal and to let us know how many are planning to attend.

LENT COIN OFFERING – Our Lent coin offering has been designated for our Blessings by the Box program to help Tincum Elementary families facing food insecurity during the summer months. Special jar lids and envelopes for this purpose can be picked up on the table in the hallway.

FELLOWSHIP PERIOD hosts are needed. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

REMINDER: Thank you for all the pledges to the boiler fund. Please don't forget to send in your pledges as you are able and note on envelope "Boiler Commitment Pledge" as we strive to repay the "borrowed funds".

CPR CLASS: A CPR class is being offered here in the parish hall on Saturday, April 26th at 10 a.m. Cost is \$26 per person (cash or check payable to Christ Lutheran Church) and due in the church office by March 31st. Class is limited to 20 people on a first come, first serve basis and cost is refundable only if your spot can be filled by someone on the waiting list. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you want to attend. See Sandra Cron if you have any questions.

IRON PIGS OUTING: The Upper Bucks Conference and Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries is sponsoring a day at the Iron Pigs again this year on Sunday, April 27th, 1:35 p.m. start time. Each congregation has been allotted 20 tickets on a first come, first serve basis. Cost is \$30 each. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. *Deadline for reserving your spot and payment is TODAY, March 30th.*

SPRING CLEAN UP: The annual spring clean up of the church grounds is scheduled for April 5th from 9 a.m. – Noon. Many helping hands would be appreciated to weed, edge and mulch the flower/shrub beds, clean up stones from the lawn and driveways, pick up sticks, clean out window wells, clean the bell tower floor and check for leaks, etc. Please see Steve Gruver if you would like to take on one of these tasks at a different time. The rain date is Saturday, April 12th, 9 a.m. – noon.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP: A work day to clean up sticks, leaves, downed trees, fill holes, set up stones, etc. at our cemetery (located just up the road next to the brick church) will take place on Saturday, April 12th, 9 a.m. – noon. Please see Steve Gruver with any questions.

JOIN THE CHOIR FOR EASTER: Help celebrate the joy of Easter! The first choir rehearsal will be held following worship today.

EASTER FLOWERS/REMEMBRANCE FORMS are available on the table with the bulletins if you wish to purchase tulips, daffodils or lilies to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday or to make a special donation to one of the church funds. Order deadline is April 6th.

EASTER GIFT BAGS: There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for items to provide Easter gift bags to our shut-ins. Please see Kathy Brown if you have any questions.

EASTER BREAKFAST will be held following the sunrise service at approximately 8 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 20th. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for donations of food items needed for the breakfast. There is also a sign-up sheet for those planning to attend to help us prepare enough food.

BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS: You may sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Sponsorship envelopes and a sign-up sheet are posted on the bulletin board for your convenience.

The Week of March 30th at a Glance

Sun. 3/30 The 4th Sunday in Lent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Happy Birthday, Kathy Brown!

Mon. 3/31 Happy Birthday, Mark Kallenbach!

Wed. 4/02 11AM Ensemble
12 Noon Lent Soup and Sacrament
Happy Birthday, Russell Paul!

Thur. 4/03 8:30AM Morning Prayer; 9AM Bible Study

Fri. 4/04 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Happy Birthday, Morgan Leister!

Sat. 4/05 9AM – Noon Spring Clean Up

Sun. 4/06 The 5th Sunday in Lent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship, Sunday School
10:30AM Fellowship Period
3-5PM Scouts