



The Fourth Sunday in Lent 2023

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

The fourth Sunday in Lent is traditionally called 'Gaudete' or 'Joy' Sunday from the theme of the readings.. In the days of severe Lenten fasts this would be a day to loosen the fast a little, have a day to feast... just a little in anticipation of the celebration of Easter.

*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.

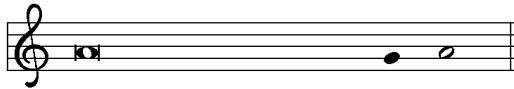
Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.

Gathering

PRAYER AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

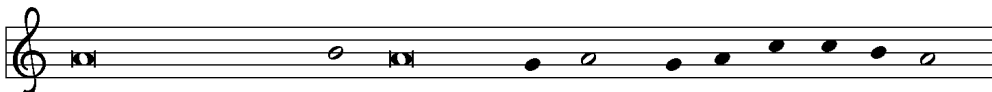
THE KYRIE (SETTING 4, ELW P.147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



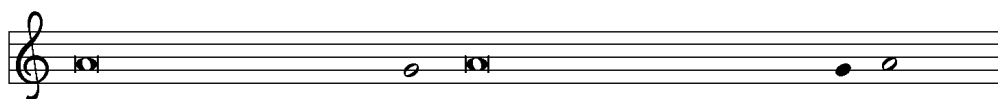
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



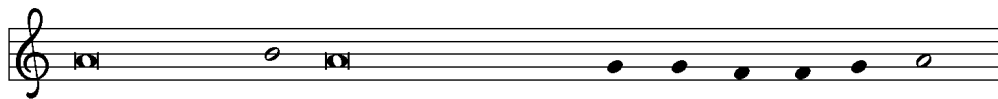
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

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,
that all may receive life. God embraces you with divine mercy and forgiveness.

This promise is for you!

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: ELW #752, SUNG 3 TIMES THROUGH



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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 Reading is from Isaiah, the 61st chapter. (Isaiah 61:10-20)

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a
bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth
brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause
righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 100 is read responsively.

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

²**Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.**

³Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;

we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

⁴Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;

give thanks and bless God's holy name.

⁵Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,

whose faithfulness endures from age to age. Amen.

The Second Reading is from Hebrews, the 12th chapter. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary in your souls or lose heart. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;

The Word of the Lord endures forever.

Our hearts are turned to you, Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom of God the Father!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 6th chapter (Matthew 6:25-34)

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

WE SING THE HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #742, WHAT A FRIEND (NEXT PAGE)



- 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.

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 for the 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. The prayers may change according to new requests received or circumstances arise. Each petition concludes:
Holy God, holy and righteous: We thank you. We thank you. We rejoice in all that you are for us, in times of blessing and joy, in times of sorrow and doubt, you are God. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Thank you for the cross, Lord. Thank you for His nail pierced hands. Thank you for the love that reaches out day by day to renew us in baptismal grace and make us your beloved children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Thank you, Living God, for the gift of the Word, living and active. Give grace to all who proclaim the gospel through Word and Sacrament and deeds of mercy, that by their teaching and example they may reveal Your love for all people. And in this congregation, we thank You for all who serve so faithfully, for the mutual love and care shown for one another and for the community. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, we thank you for your healing presence. We especially ask that You please comfort and relieve all who are in trouble, sorrow, poverty, sickness, grief. We pray especially for all the names and needs upon our hearts in this moment, lifting them before your mercy and love...
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we thank you – you are the God of resurrection. We thank you the promise that our beloved dead rest in your arms, eternally healed and whole. Comfort and strengthen us as we live into Easter hope, whether we grieve one with you many days, or we wait with the dying. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to bring wholeness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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

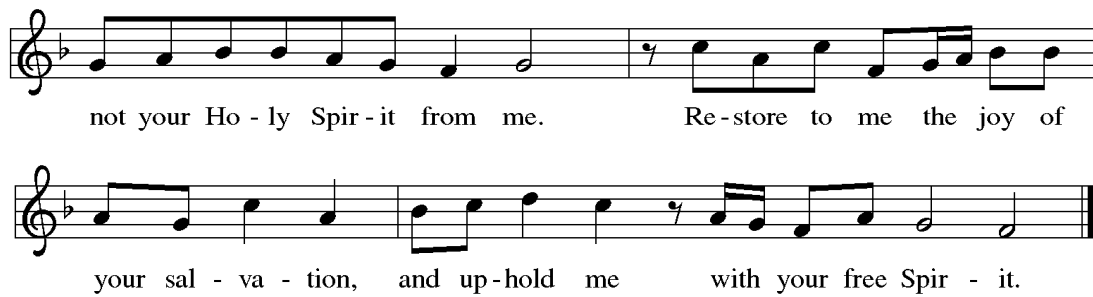
The offering is gathered as we offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. In house or joining us online, tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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





THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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. Please stand at Pastor's invitation.

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	Just as I am, thou wilt receive
but that thy blood was shed for me,	wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
and that thou bid'st me come to thee	because thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.	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. 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 #765, LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

DISMISSAL & SENDING

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

Mrs. Kim Campbell, Council President

Mrs. Cynthia Carper, Parish Secretary

215. 766. 8730

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WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS