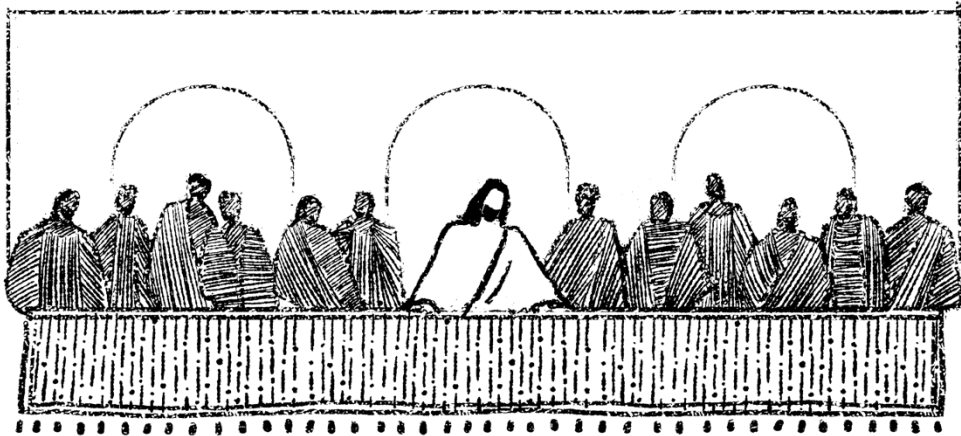


MARCH 29, 2024 | MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF FIRST COMMUNION



**CHRIST LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**
CHRISTLAMESA.ORG

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Thanks for joining us today! Whether you were raised in a home that regularly worshipped, only went to church on Christmas and Easter, or are exploring the Christian faith for the first time – we are glad you are here. If you haven't been to a Lutheran Church before, our worship format might be a unique experience for you. Our service is filled with symbolism and ancient tradition that propels our hearts *upward*. If you have any questions, our staff, volunteers, and your fellow worshippers are here to answer any questions and help in any way they can.

THE BEGINNING OF THE EASTER TRIDUUM

On Maundy Thursday, we begin the Easter Triduum (a Latin word connoting the three holy days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter). Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples before his crucifixion. The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin "mandatum," meaning commandment, referring to Jesus' commandment to love one another as he loved them.

You'll notice there is no benediction tonight, nor will there be one tomorrow – that is because the service does not *conclude* until Easter. Tonight, we also celebrate the First Communion for several students. You'll notice each of them has made a personalized chalice which they will use this evening.

HOLY COMMUNION + WHAT WE BELIEVE

Communion is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and confidence that our Lord gives us not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table the baptized who trust in the words "my body... my blood... for you", repent of all sin, and seek to live by the Lord's ways. If this is not your belief, are a child who has not taken the First Communion Class or are unfamiliar with the belief of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed so that we can give you a blessing by making the sign of the cross over you. We also encourage you to talk to one of our pastors after the service if you have questions.

CONNECTION CARD

Please let us know you're worshipping with us today. You can give us as little, or as much, info as you'd like. There is also a place on the connection card to submit a prayer request, make a comment, ask a question, or express interest in next steps. If you'd like to give an offering, you can do that, too! Scan the QR code or visit christlamesa.org/hello.



+ ORDER OF WORSHIP +

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Please stand, if you are able, as we prepare our hearts to worship God and receive His good gifts.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

SONG OF CONFESSION | COME AS YOU ARE

Come out of sadness from wherever You've been
Come, brokenhearted, let rescue begin
Come find your mercy, O sinner, come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

There's hope for the hopeless
And all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame
All who are broken, lift up your face
O wanderer, come home, you're not too far
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart
Come as you are

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Brothers and sisters, as we gather to remember the words and works of Jesus in the Upper Room, let us first acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate God together.

We take a moment for self-reflection as we confess to God our imperfections.

Leader: We confess...

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Leader: Hear this good news: your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE | WOV 699 | BLESSED ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long:
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray... O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. As we embrace the sacred mystery of Your body and blood, we ask that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be visible in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated as we enter the "Liturgy of the Word." Since the early days of the church, portions of the Bible have been read during worship so that all may be formed by the Word of God.

FIRST READING | EXODUS 24:1-11 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 111

Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus, the twenty-fourth chapter.

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, ² but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."

³ When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." ⁴ Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. ⁶ Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."

⁸ Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL | MATTHEW 26:26-30 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1416

Leader: To honor the words and works of Jesus, please stand.

All: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE HYMN | LSB 602 | THE GIFTS CHRIST FREELY GIVES

The gifts Christ freely gives He gives to you and me
To be His Church, His bride, His chosen, saved and free!
Saints blest with these rich gifts are children who proclaim
That they were won by Christ and cling to His strong name.

The gifts flow from the font where He calls us His own;
New life He gives that makes us His and His alone.
Here He forgives our sins with water and His Word;
The triune God Himself gives pow'r to call Him Lord.

The gifts are in the feast, gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in His peace, renewed again.

All glory to the One who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love assures our life above.
His means of grace for us are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His great love by which we live!

HOMILY | ACCESS!

OFFERING | CHRISTLAMESA.ORG/GIVE

Members of Christ Lutheran support the mission through their giving of time, talents, and treasures. If you are a guest joining us, please know there is no expectation for you to contribute.

HYMN OF RESPONSE | LSB 409 | HAIL, O SOURCE OF EVERY BLESSING

Hail, O Source of ev'ry blessing, Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing, in Your courts obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before You, in Your Church rejoice to live,
See Your glory and adore You, thankful for the grace You give.

Once far off but now invited, we approach Your sacred throne,
In Your covenant united, reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to eastern sages, see the Star of Mercy shine,
Myst'ry hid in former ages, myst'ry great of love divine.

Hail, O all-inviting Savior! Gentiles now their off'rings bring,
In Your temples seek Your favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit, live devoted to Your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, grateful anthems ever raise.

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Each petition ends with:

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers, we continue with the Lord's Prayer:

All: 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.

MILESTONE OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Nate Brenner	Gabriel Cano	Amelia Carrasco	Hannah Chisum
Ethan Honaker	Makayla Honaker	Jonathan Miller	Nyla Palacio
Olivia Payne	Gavin Powell	Emma Ruggles	Hunter Sivba
Cooper Welgan	Christian Wikoren	Mikki Winkler	

Pastor: In the Catechism of the Lutheran Church, we hear that the Sacrament of the Altar, known as the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, and Holy Communion, is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in and under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and drink. As you prepare to receive the Lord's supper, I ask you to profess your faith and belief... Do you believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Student: Yes, I believe.

Pastor: Do you believe in the sacred mystery that the bread we eat and the wine we drink are Christ's body and blood as the scriptures say?

Student: Yes, I believe.

Pastor: Are you sorry for your sins, and do you intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful lives?

Student: Yes, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Christ Lutheran Church, will you support these students in their lives of faith, and continue to pray for them after tonight?

All: We will with the help of God.

Pastor: Let us pray... Thank you, Lord, for these students. As they grow in years, deepen their faith in You and their dependence on the Holy Spirit. Thank you for their parents, Godparents, family members, and other important people to their faith lives. Help all of us to continue to follow You.

HOLY COMMUNION | ISAIAH 6:1-8; 2 TIMOTHY 4:22; COLOSSIANS 3:1; MATTHEW 26:26-28

The Sursum Corda (Latin: "Lift up your hearts") is an ancient Christian communion prayer. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been raised with Christ and now reign with him in heaven. We end this preface with the Sanctus (Latin: "Holy"). The Sanctus is one of the songs being sung in heaven before God's throne. We join our voices with the angels and those who have gone before us in the faith to give glory to God. After the Sanctus, we embrace the ultimate Mystery of Faith, as bread and wine become, for us, the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly ... evermore praising You and singing:

All:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



Pastor: Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed...

SHARING OF THE PEACE | MATTHEW 5:9; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated, and join in singing the hymns, as you reflect on God's love and prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. You can find what we believe about Communion on the bottom of page 2.

COMMUNION HYMN | LSB 445 | WHEN YOU WOKE THAT THURSDAY MORNING

When You woke that Thursday morning, Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning, knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages, now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin's wages: You assumed their dreadful sum.

What was there that You could give them that would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them, what last will and testament?
"Show Me and the world you love Me, know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me, eat this body, drink this blood."

One in faith, in love united, all one body, You the head,
When we meet, by You invited, You are with us, as You said.
One with You and one another in a unity sublime,
See in us Your sister, brother, one in ev'ry place and time.

One day all the Church will capture that bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture that Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion in Your never-ending feast.

COMMUNION HYMN | LSB 878 | ABIDE WITH ME

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour; What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

CLOSING READING | MATTHEW 26:36-56

³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

⁴⁰Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. ⁴¹"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.”

⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵² “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

We conclude with the Stripping of the Altar, which symbolizes the beginning of Jesus’ Passion as He is betrayed, taken into custody, humiliated at the hands of the soldiers, falsely accused, tried, and sentenced to death. As we begin to meditate upon our Lord’s Passion, the church is emptied of its ornamental beauty and darkened.

CLOSING HYMN | LSB 436 | GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from Him to bear the cross.

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To watch this service again, or share it with a friend, visit christlamesa.org/worship.*

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant and Preacher: Pastor Travis Ferguson; **Liturgist:** Deacon Jacob Sitze; **Acolyte:** Christian Wikoren; **Reader:** Mike McGhen **Music Leaders:** Kathy Barkett and Sarah Kusel; **Worship Partner:** Mike McGhen; **Communion Assistants:** Phil Lamonica, Bob Maass, Mike Maass, and Dave Wutke; **Livestream, Sound, and Media:** Micah Valadez, Craig Barkett, and Shaun Johnson; **Welcome Team:** Erik Selander, Dallas Johnson, Dennis Johnson, and Kathy Coe.

OUR STAFF



Travis Ferguson
Pastor



Jacob Sitze
Deacon



Patti Maass
Director of Operations



Cheri Selander
Director of Youth Ministries



Brandon Heath
Minister to Youth



Kathy Barkett
Director of Worship and Music



Sarah Kusel
Assistant Director of Music and Worship



Xavria Schwarz
Principal



Melissa Payne
Preschool Director



Stuart Gardner
Director of Community and Communications



Craig Barkett
Director of Facilities



Kathy Garces
Administrative Accountant



Emily Lieber
Human Resources Specialist



Kathy Johnson
Worship and Music Assistant



Kim Voss
Administrative Assistant

To contact a staff member, please visit christlamesa.org/about

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2024 EASTER OFFERING | HELP US PACK 100,000 MEALS – Easter is just around the corner... but millions around the world have difficulty thinking about the joys of Easter because their bellies are growling from hunger. Help us change that this Easter. Our goal is to pack 100,000 meals - and we need your help to do it. Make a difference. Donate to the Easter Offering today by going to christlamesa.org/easter.



THE 2024 MEXICO HOUSEBUILD | SATURDAYS IN APRIL AND MAY – As a church, we partner with AMOR Ministries to build a home for one family in Mexico. Join us on April 13, 27, May 11, and 18 as we help our neighbors to the South! Anyone over 8 years old with a valid passport may come to serve on a build Saturday. Friends and family are welcome to join. Scan the QR code to sign-up.



CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL - Named Premier Parent Choice Award Winner for 2022-2023, our Christ-centered and accredited School and Preschool have been committed to academic excellence since 1958. You get tradition and legacy with a bright and exciting future with Christ Lutheran. If you are interested in enrollment, visit lutheranschool.org or call **(619) 462-5211, ext. 3**, and schedule a tour today!



PICKLEBALL AT CHRIST LUTHERAN – Join us in the Gym on Mondays from 7-9 pm for an amazing night of Pickleball!! Equipment is provided, but you can also bring your own. Church and school family, friends, neighbors and community members are welcome. Questions? Contact Matt Rochester at mattrochie7@gmail.com. This provides a great opportunity to connect your friends with Christ Lutheran in a non-threatening atmosphere.



CONNECTING STUDENTS TO JESUS AND OTHER STUDENTS - Youth Ministry at Christ Lutheran is about growing relationships between students and fun, faith-filled adults. This is done by gathering consistently through worship opportunities, Bible studies, games, fun activities, mission trips, servant events, leadership development, and more. Each month there is a way to stay connected and grow in faith. Find out more at christlamesa.org/youth.

To see more upcoming events, visit christlamesa.org/calendar.