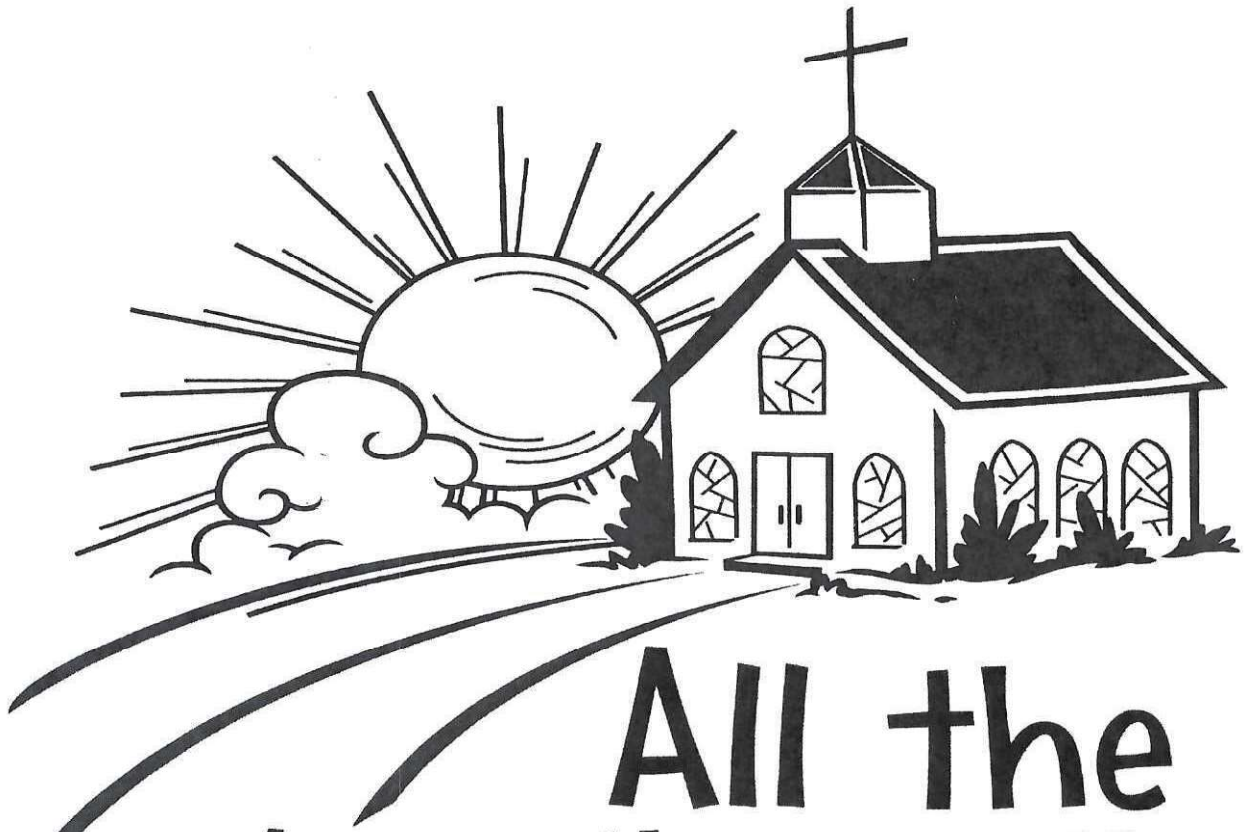


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



**All the
ends of the earth
shall remember and
turn to the LORD...**

Psalm 22:27, ESV

3rd Sunday of Easter
WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

April 14, 2024

TODAY'S MESSAGE: WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His first disciples, He ate with them and He "opened their minds so that they could understand" everything that was written about Him in the Scriptures (in the Old Testament). Today, Jesus comes to us, speaks to us, and opens our minds so that we can understand the Scriptures (the Old and the New Testament). Jesus eats "with us" as we receive His body and His blood in holy communion. And as He did with His first disciples, Jesus sends us out as His witnesses to proclaim "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" in His name to all people. Today and every day, we stand on, and in, God's Word and we proclaim the name of our crucified, risen and forever living Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



THE LORD'S SUPPER

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction before receiving the Lord's Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝

[“Divine Service: Setting Three” from LSB p.184]

Please silence – or turn off – all phones and electronic devices before and during the service.

Welcome

Opening Hymn

“This is the Day the Lord has Made”

LSB 903

**This is the day the Lord has made. He calls the hours His own.
Let heav’n rejoice, let earth be glad, and praise surround the throne.**

**Today He rose and left the dead, and Satan’s empire fell.
Today the saints His triumphs spread, and all His wonders tell.**

**Hosanna to the anointed King, to David’s holy Son!
Help us, O Lord, descend and bring, salvation from Your throne.**

**Blessed is He who comes to us, with messages of grace.
He, in the Lord’s name, comes to us, to save our fallen race.**

**Hosanna in the highest strains, the church on earth can raise.
The highest heav’ns, in which He reigns, shall give Him nobler praise.**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sung)* A - - - men

Confession of Sins

Hebrews 10:22; 1 John 1:8-9

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Psalm 124:8

C: *(sung)* Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

Psalm 32:5

C: *(sung)* And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 22:22-31

P: I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

C: **You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

P: For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

C: **From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.**

P: The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!

C: **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**

P: All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

C: **Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation.**

P: They shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn.

ALL: That he has done it.

Gloria Patri *(sung)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie *(sung)*

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis *(sung)*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee. We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King. God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* And with thy spirit.

Opening Prayer

ALL: Almighty and eternal God, you have assured us of the completion of our redemption through the cross and the resurrection of your Son. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us the will to do all things in Jesus' name, showing forth in our lives what we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading [ESV]

Acts 3:1-21

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name – by faith in his name – has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all."

"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Second Reading [ESV]

1 John 3:1-2

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Luke 24:36-49

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

As they were talking about [Jesus' appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and how Jesus "was known to them in the breaking of the bread"], Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!"

But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"Christ High-Ascended, Now in Glory Seated"

LSB 840

**Christ high-ascended, now in glory seated,
Throned and exalted, victory completed.
Death's dread dominion, finally defeated.
We are His witnesses.**

**Christ from the Father, ev'ry pow'r possessing,
Who on His chosen, lifted hands in blessing,
Sends forth His servants, still in faith confessing.
We are His witnesses.**

**Christ, who in dying, won for us salvation,
Lives now the firstborn, of the new creation,
To win disciples, out of ev'ry nation.
We are His witnesses.**

**Christ in His splendor, all dominion gaining.
Christ with His people, evermore remaining.
Christ to all ages, gloriously reigning.
We are His witnesses.**

**As at His parting, joy shall banish grieving,
Faith in His presence, strengthen our believing.
Filled with His Spirit, love and pow'r receiving.
We are His witnesses.**

Sermon

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“He is Arisen! Glorious Word”

LSB 488

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord. The gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die, and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon. O hear what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious, life is giving. He was dead but now is living!

Offering (Greet those seated near you. You may say, “The peace of the Lord be with you.”)

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

- P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- C: **May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.**

Prayers

✠ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

- P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
- C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**
- P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*
- C: *(sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
- P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. *Psalm 136*
- C: *(sung)* **It is good and right so to do.**
- P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy, Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He. Blessed is He. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**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.

Words of Our Lord

Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed . . .

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

John 20:19

C: *(sung)* A - - - - - men.

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.... A - - - - - men.

Distribution Hymns

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

LSB 524

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the heart’s unrest.
'Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place.
My never failing treasury filled, with boundless stores of grace.**

**O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my Prophet, Priest and King.
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.**

**How weak the effort of my heart, how cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I’ll praise Thee as I ought.**

**Till then I would Thy love proclaim, with ev’ry fleeting breath.
And may the music of Thy name, refresh my soul in death!**

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

LSB 528

**Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of Thy name.**

**Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease.
'Tis music in the sinner’s ears. 'Tis life and health and peace.**

**He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin. He sets the pris’ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean. His blood avails for me.**

**Look unto Him, ye nations own, your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace.**

**See all your sins on Jesus laid. The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off’ring made, for ev’ry soul of man.**

**To God all glory, praise and love, be now and ever giv’n,
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav’n.**

“On Galilee’s High Mountain”

LSB 835

**On Galilee’s high mountain, Christ gave the great command,
In words of strength and promise, which all can understand:
“All pow’r to Me is given, to do what I shall choose.”
“Therefore I send My children, their witness I will use.”**

**The Lord who, born of Mary, came down as man and died,
Who preached to all who listened, for us was crucified –
This Lord, our living brother, in pow’r at God’s right hand,
Has chosen us to carry, His truth to ev’ry land.**

**His strength within my weakness, will make me bold to say,
How His redeeming power, transforms my stubborn clay.
His touch of fire ignites me, with courage I am sent.
My tongue-tied silence broken, with grace made eloquent.**

**And not alone to nations, in far away retreats,
But ev'rywhere I broadcast, His love through crowded streets.
The lives that my life touches, however great or small –
Let them through me see Jesus, who served and saved us all.**

**That ev'ryone He chooses, for reasons of His own,
Will find in Christ his calling, to live His love alone.
His presence always leads us, till time no more shall be.
Christ's strength, His love, His comfort, give us His victory.**

**Lord, gather all Your children, wherever they may be,
And lead them on to heaven, to live eternally.
With You, our loving Father, and Christ, our brother dear,
Whose Spirit guards and gives us, the joy to persevere.**

Nunc Dimittis (*sung*)

Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

Psalm 107:1

C: (*sung*) **And His mercy endureth forever.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: **God our Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness
sent your Son into the flesh, we thank you that for his sake you have given us
pardon and peace in this sacrament and we ask you not to forsake your children
but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we be enabled
to serve you constantly; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: (*sung*) **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

Psalm 103:1

C: (*sung*) **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: *(sung)* A - men, A - men, A - - men.

Closing Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

LSB 643

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from his dwelling take leave. The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended, the fruits of this service in all who believe. The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us, to work for God’s kingdom and answer his call.

With praise and thanksgiving, to God ever-living, the tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing his children of each tribe and race. With your feast you feed us. With your light now lead us. Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving, give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.