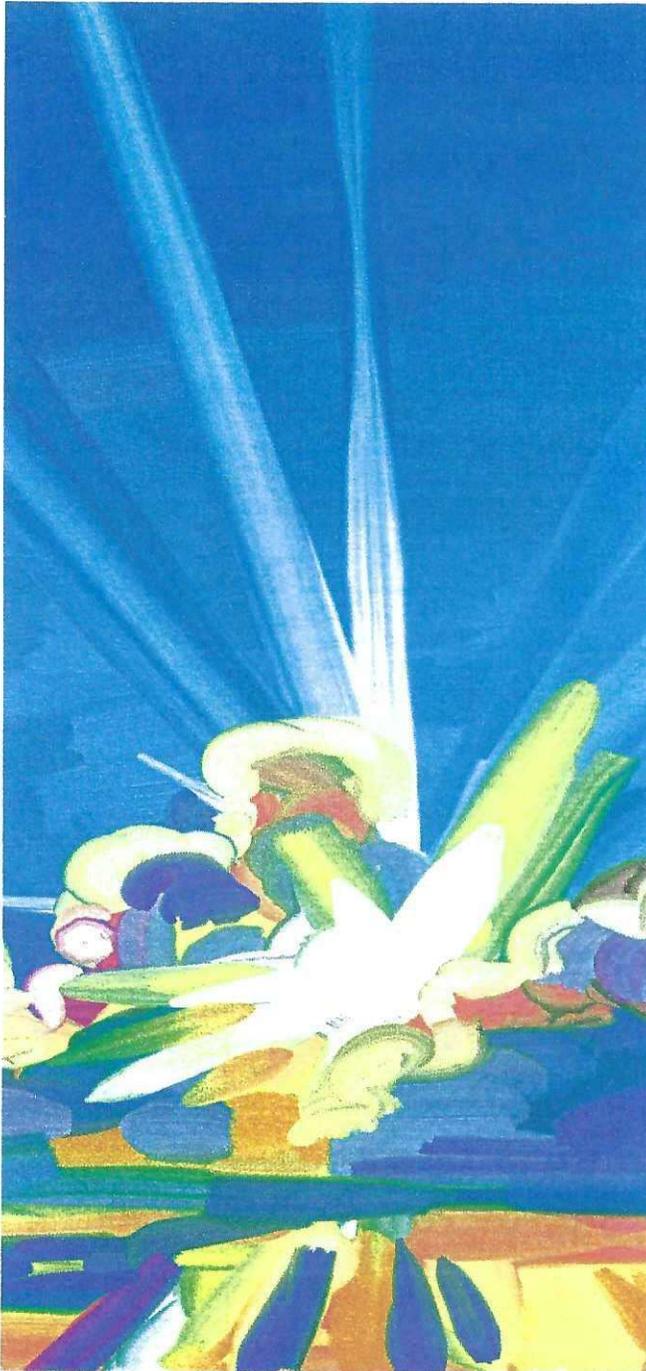


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



As long
as I am
in the
WORLD,
I am the
LIGHT
of the
WORLD.

John 9:5

4th Sunday in Lent
OUT OF THE DARKNESS
March 15, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Christians who have lived in the light of Christ for their entire lives often do not (or cannot) fully comprehend what it means to have lived in the darkness (although sometimes we tend to slip back into it). But where our experience is lacking, God's Word tells us what it means to live in the darkness. It tells us that we live in the darkness when we live apart from God; slaves to sin, death (even eternal death) and the power of the devil. God's Word describes this darkness as a prison (even a "dungeon") and it compares this darkness to absolute blindness. As He did for the blind man in today's Gospel Reading, Jesus calls us out of the darkness. Through baptism and His Word, He opens our eyes to see, believe and live in and for Him.



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 prior to 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 One" from LSB p.151]

Please silence – or turn off – your phones and refrain from using them during the service.

Welcome

Announcements

Opening Hymn

"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

LSB 904

**Blessed Jesus, at Your Word, we are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred, now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, drawn from earth to love You solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight, lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till Your Spirit breaks our night, with the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us. You must work all good within us.**

**Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding.
Open now our heart and mind. Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises. Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

(STAND) **Father, Son and Spirit, Lord, praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, till we sing Your praises yonder.**

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

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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.

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore 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 142

P: With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

C: **I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.**

P: When my spirit faints within me, you know my way!

C: **In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.**

P: Look to the right and see: There is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

C: **I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."**

P: Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!

C: **Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!**

P: Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name!

C: **The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.**

ALL: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Lenten Hymn

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

LSB 422

**On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares and pleasures, never may your work erase.
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus crucified for me.
Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation!**

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Almighty God, you show the light of your truth to those in darkness. Open our eyes and shine your light into our hearts today so that we do not live like those in the darkness but in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Isaiah 42:5-7, 14-16, 18

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness."

"For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them." . . . "Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see!"

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Your Word (O Lord) is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.** Psalm 119:105

Epistle Reading [ESV]

Ephesians 5:8-14

At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Your Word (O Lord) is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.** Psalm 119:105

Gospel Reading [ESV]

John 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

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

As he passed by, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LSB 849

**Praise the One who breaks the darkness, with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands, with the very Bread of peace.**

**Praise the One who blessed the children, with a strong, yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons, with the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water, to the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious, that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Let us praise the true Redeemer. Praise the One who makes us one.**

Sermon

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Hymn of Response "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

LSB 411

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

REFRAIN

**In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.**

REFRAIN

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.**

REFRAIN

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Offertory (*sung*)

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,

In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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

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 also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: (*sung*) **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

C: (*sung*) **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. 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 pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. 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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymns "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

LSB 545

**Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending.
Touch our hearts and bring to birth, faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You. Word made flesh, we long to hear You.**

**Word eternal, throned on high. Word that brought to life creation.
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation.
Saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, Your love outpouring.**

**Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our mortal blindness.
Deaf we are – our healer be. Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken. Heal the world, by sin now broken.**

**Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling.
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling.
Word of truth, to all truth lead us. Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

"Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

LSB 620

**Jesus comes today with healing, knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation, and I hear His invitation:
"Come and taste the blessed feast."**

**Christ Himself, the priest presiding, yet in bread and wine abiding,
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken, and the cup, the precious token,
Of His sacred covenant.**

**Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven, who to bitter death was given.
Hung upon the cursed tree.**

**God descends with heav'nly power, gives Himself to me this hour,
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving, I accept His grace, believing,
That I taste His love divine.**

**Let me praise God's boundless favor, whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me, with a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.**

**Now have I found consolation, comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror, cleanses me from sin and error.
Makes my wounded spirit whole.**

**Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham.
Christ, the radiance of the Father, perfect God, the great I AM.
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished, Light of life You bring to all.
Light our path with Your own presence, grant us grace to heed Your call.**

**Christ, the living bread from heaven, food for body, food for soul.
Christ, the manna daily given, nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven, foretaste of the feast to be.
Quench our thirst with living water, springing up eternally.**

**Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant, from the stump of Jesse’s tree.
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches, to bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into You, O Savior. Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard, till eternal life we gain.**

**Christ, our good and faithful shepherd, watching all Your lambs and sheep.
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold, never failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us, find us, lift us, bear us home.
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us. Let us hear Your voice alone.**

**Christ, the way that leads un failing, to the Father’s home on high.
Christ the truth that frees the captive. Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav’nly mansions, there to share Your wedding feast.**

(STAND) **Christ, the Alpha and Omega. Christ, the firstborn from the dead.
Christ, the life and resurrection. Christ, the Church’s glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration, and unending worship be,
To the Father and the Spirit, and to You eternally.**

Nunc Dimittis *(sung)*

Luke 2:29-32 [LSB p.165]

**Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace. Your word has been fulfilled. My
own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev’ry
people: A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray.

ALL: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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

“Amazing Grace”

LSB 744

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found. Was blind but now I see!**

**The Lord has promised good to me. His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
His grace has brought me safe thus far. His grace will lead me home.**

**Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail, in heaven’s joy and peace.**

**When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise, than when we’d first begun.**

CLC MISSION STATEMENT: “We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God’s Word, sharing God’s love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name.”