



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

## GATHERING

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Who Am I- Casting Crowns (4:49)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9hetEFcjGM>

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**PM** Lord Jesus Christ, we pray to you  
because you were tempted like us  
and yet did not submit.  
You have promised to come to the help of those who  
are put to the test.  
We confess that we are tempted  
by what divides us from you  
and so we pray...

We call on you to help us  
**When we are tempted to exploit our abilities only for personal gain,  
and when we let the gifts meant to illumine the world  
lie dormant and unused.**

We call on you to help us  
**When we are tempted to doubt your love for us  
when we rely on the words of others  
instead of relying on your word.**

We call on you to help us  
**When we are tempted to ignore the needs of our  
brothers and sisters because we are too  
absorbed in our own needs.**

We call on you to help us  
**When we are tempted to let our anxiety and worries  
about tomorrow interrupt our living today.**

Jesus Christ is with us now and walks through  
the wilderness with us every day.  
In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ died for us and by his command,  
I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins.  
**AMEN.**

#### **GREETING**

**PM** 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.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**PM** Steadfast God,  
you reach out to us in mercy  
even when we rebel against your holy call  
and prefer to walk in disobedience  
rather than in the way of your divine truth.  
soften our hearts with the warmth of your love,  
that we may know your Son alive within us,  
redeeming us, and raising us up into your eternal presence. **Amen.**

# WORD

## PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

*You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)*

- <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,  
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
- <sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,
- <sup>3</sup>gathering them in | from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.
- <sup>17</sup>Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;  
through their sins they | were afflicted.
- <sup>18</sup>They loathed all man- | ner of food  
and drew near | to death's door.
- <sup>19</sup>Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD  
and you delivered them from | their distress.
- <sup>20</sup>You sent forth your | word and healed them  
and rescued them | from the grave.
- <sup>21</sup>Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love  
and your wonderful works | for all people.
- <sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

## GOSPEL - John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You<sup>[d]</sup> must be born from above.'<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>8</sup> The wind<sup>[f]</sup> blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you<sup>[g]</sup> do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>[h]</sup> <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>[i]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

Pastor June Wilkins

**God Loved the World-** ELW #323 (3:08)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QhO\\_xyHHDQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QhO_xyHHDQ)

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**AM** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

## MEAL

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)- by Chris Tomlin (3:50)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z51InUHnLE8>

### OFFERING PRAYER

**AM** Faithful God,  
you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

**PM** 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.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

## **+LORD'S PRAYER**

**PM** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.  
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**PM** To all who have been in the wilderness.  
Come and find shelter in the mercy of God.

*As we join with the family of all believers in celebrating Holy Communion, we believe that Christ is present in this meal, and when we receive it, we receive God's grace, abundant love, and forgiveness.*

## **TABLE BLESSING**

**PM** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and reveal to you God's grace.  
**Amen.**

## **+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**AM** God of steadfast love,  
at this table you gather your people  
into one body for the sake of the world.  
Send us in the power of your Spirit,  
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

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### BLESSING

**PM** You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you † that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.  
**Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

**And All the People Said Amen-** by Matt Maher (3:06)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG04jJuMCGY>

### DISMISSAL

**AM** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**