



The 3rd Sunday in Lent 2025

Worship at 9:30 a.m. 23 March 2025

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

*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.

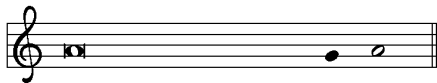
Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.

Gathering

PRAYER AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

THE KYRIE



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.



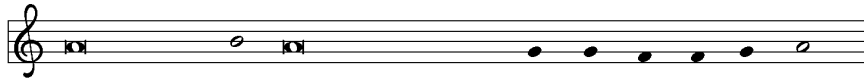
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

Most holy and merciful Father:

**In mercy you have called us your own,
But we have chosen cheap grace.**

The sacrifice God desires is a contrite and ready heart;

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love.

Silence for reflection

Hear our repentance, O God, and renew our baptismal promises:

**to walk as Your faithful people
taking the Word into our hearts
and nurturing our lives by worship and prayer.**

Strengthen us proclaim Christ in words and actions,

**To care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life. This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy.

**Through our Lenten journey forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
that we may grow as disciples of Christ
and live out our faith according to your purpose. Amen.**

WE SING THE GATHERING SONG #522, AS WE GATHER (NEXT PAGE)



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

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. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

THE FIRST LESSON is from Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter. (Isaiah 55:1-9)

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 63 is read responsively.

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷ For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

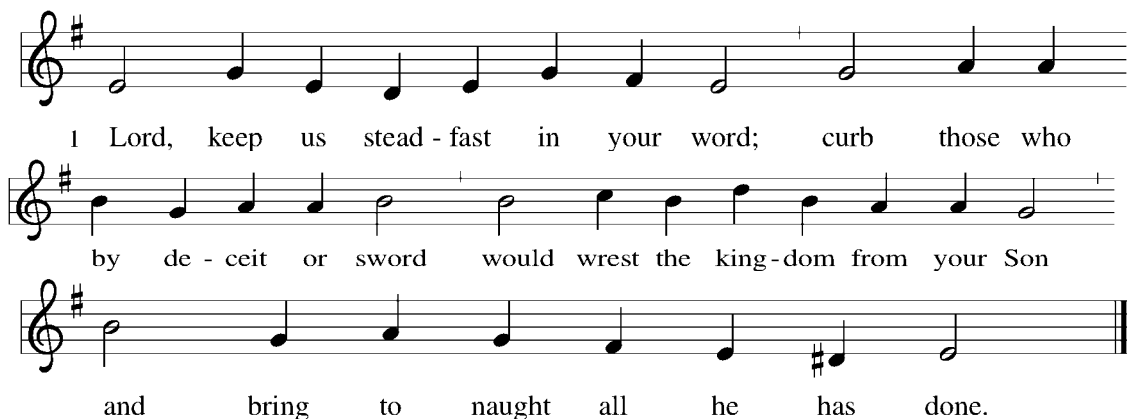
⁸ **My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. Amen.**

THE SECOND READING is from First Corinthians, the tenth chapter. (1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: #517, v. 1, LORD KEEP US STEADFAST



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
by de-ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Luke, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** (Lk 13:1-9)

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as

they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’” The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#517, v. 2, LORD KEEP US STEADFAST

**Lord Jesus Christ your power make known, for you are Lord of lords alone
defend your holy church that we may sing your praise eternally.**

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

WE SING THE HYMN OF THE DAY #770 GIVE ME JESUS

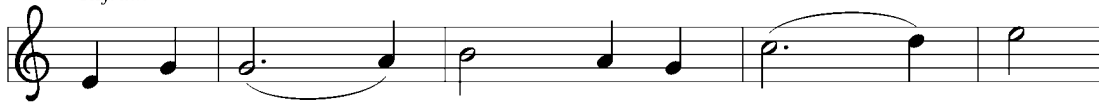


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

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 that we may be renewed as followers of Christ, for the whole 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. Each petition concludes:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to strengthen us to walk as witnesses to your mercy and justice; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Meal

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the Lord's name, saying "Peace be with you," or a similar greeting. 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.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray –*Silence*- Merciful God,
**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.

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
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe
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 that you wish.
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.

Silence for reflection.

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 #773, PRECIOUS LORD



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

DISMISSAL

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

Mr. Brian Maddux, Council President

Mrs. Cynthia Carper, Parish Secretary

215. 766. 8730

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WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MARCH WEB SITE is sponsored by the Campbells in loving memory of Henry and Hattie Fretz.
THE MARCH BULLETINS are sponsored by Pastor Caron and Mike in memory of Pr. Caron's father, David Caron.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Luray Minkiewicz (H,St), Patrick McCarthy (H,St), Barb H (H,R) and the family and friends of George Adams (Beth Swope's father) and David Little as they mourn their deaths. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

SOUPER LENTEN WEDNESDAYS are being held at noon on Wednesdays through April 16th. See the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board to help provide soup, bread and other items for the meal and to let us know how many are planning to attend.

LENT COIN OFFERING – Our Lent coin offering has been designated for our Blessings by the Box program to help Tinicum Elementary families facing food insecurity during the summer months. Special jar lids and envelopes for this purpose can be picked up on the table in the hallway.

IRON PIGS OUTING: The Upper Bucks Conferences and Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries is sponsoring a day at the Iron Pigs again this year on Sunday, April 27th, 1:35 p.m. start time. Each congregation has been allotted 20 tickets on a first come, first serve basis. Cost is \$30 each. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. *Deadline for reserving your spot and payment is March 30th.*

SPRING CLEANUP: The annual spring clean up of the church grounds is scheduled for April 5th from 9 a.m. – Noon. Many helping hands would be appreciated to weed, edge and mulch the flower/shrub beds, clean up stones from the lawn and driveways, pick up sticks, clean out window wells, clean the bell tower floor and check for leaks, etc. Please see Steve Gruver if you would like to take on one of these tasks at a different time. The rain date is Saturday, April 12th, 9 a.m. – noon.

JOIN THE CHOIR FOR EASTER: Help celebrate the joy of Easter! The first rehearsal will be held following worship on Sunday, March 30th. Please see Kim Campbell if you would like a copy of the music.

EASTER FLOWERS/REMEMBRANCE FORMS are available on the table with the bulletins if you wish to purchase tulips, daffodils or lilies to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday or to make a special donation to one of the church funds. Order deadline is April 6th.

The Week of March 23rd at a Glance

Sun. 3/23 The 3rd Sunday in Lent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
3-5PM Girl Scouts
Happy Birthday, Cory Trauger!

Wed. 3/26 11AM Ensemble
12 Noon Lent Soup and Study

Thur. 3/27 8:30AM Morning Prayer; 9AM Bible Study

Fri. 3/28 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Happy Anniversary, Derek & Helena Moench!

Sun. 3/30 The 4th Sunday in Lent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Happy Birthday, Kathy Brown!