

**March 5, 2025**  
**Ash Wednesday**



**Christ's Lutheran Church**  
700 East Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oreland, Pennsylvania

*Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.*

## **Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!**

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

#### **Prelude**

#### **The Welcome and Announcements**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

#### **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### **The Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel, chapter 2.

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—

<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
    a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
    nor will be again after them  
    in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,  
    for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
    and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
    and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
    for the Lord, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;  
    assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
    even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
    and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
 let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
 Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,  
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
 a byword among the nations.  
 Why should it be said among the peoples,  
 'Where is their God?'"

Word of God. Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm Hymn

## Just As I Am, without One Plea ELW # 592



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871  
 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

A reading from Second Corinthians, chapters 5 and 6.

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Return to the Lord**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

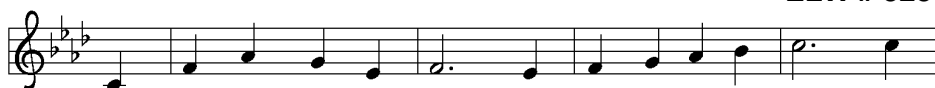
**The Message**

**Pastor Axel Kaegler**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## Hymn of the Day

## Restore in Us, O God ELW # 328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

## Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

*Please be seated.*

## The Offering

### Musical Offering

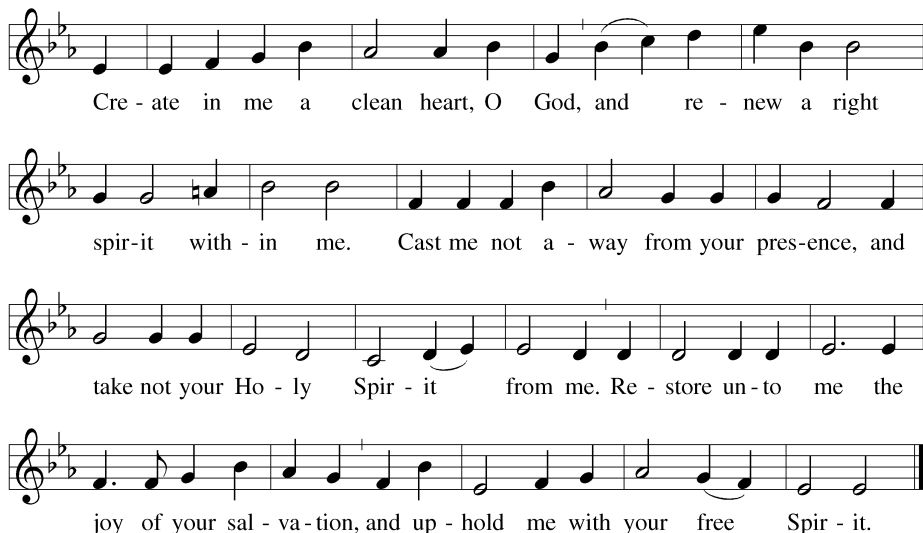
### "Sanctus"

Schubert

*Holy, holy, holy, Holy is the Lord!  
Holy, holy, holy, Holy is our God!*

### Offertory

### Create in Me a Clean Heart WOV # 732



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 un - to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
Who brings us safely through the sea,  
Who gives us water from the rock,  
Who leads us into the land of milk and honey.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**Have mercy on us.**



For self-centered living,  
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For longing to have what is not ours,  
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For misuse of human relationships,  
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For jealousies that divide families and nations,  
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God,  
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For hurtful words that condemn,  
and for angry deeds that harm:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,  
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us  
and gives us the power to proclaim  
the mighty acts of the one who called us  
out of the darkness into his marvelous light.  
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you  
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son,  
And of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding  
us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal  
life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Those who desire to receive the imposition of ashes  
May come forward by the center aisle  
and return to their seat by the side aisle.*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

### **Musical Interlude**

*When everyone has returned to their seats.*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our  
Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of  
the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of our journeys, we pray for the church as the season of Lent begins. Guide your people in spiritual practices and preparation for baptism. Strengthen communities of faith in discipleship and witness for the sake of the gospel. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for the earth. As you once brought forth life from the dust, breathe healing and renewal into all places where ecosystems are stretched and strained. Nurture organic cycles of life, death, and rebirth. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, we pray for an end to wars and occupations that reduce communities to ash. Turn leaders away from fearful decision-making, and lead all people into the justice and compassion of your reign. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of the suffering, we pray for all who live with any pain. Comfort people living with chronic or terminal illnesses, addictions, or anxiety. Grant that all who dwell in the dust of grief may know your presence there. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of community, we pray for those who accompany the dying: for first responders, health care and hospice workers, chaplains, and those who facilitate burials of the dead. Sustain them as they serve their neighbors in life and death with dignity and care. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of the cross, we give thanks for those who have completed their lives on earth and have returned to you. Strengthen us with the promise that within the ashes of death are the seeds of resurrection life. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

## **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

### **Dialogue**

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.**

### **Preface and Thanksgiving**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

## **Words of Institution**

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 testament in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Invitation to Communion**

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*All baptized Christians are welcome at the table of our Lord.  
Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in,  
with, and under the bread and wine.*

*Those who do not wish to receive communion  
may come forward for a blessing.*

*Please come forward using the center aisle and  
returning by the side aisle.*

*Communion will be continuous.  
We invite you to receive first the bread and then the wine.*

*Please stand.*

## **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Sending Song

## Bless Now, O God the Journey

ELW # 326



- 1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.  
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon-ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be-side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth-er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Mid-week Lenten Services

Please join us every Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 pm in the chapel for the Holden Evening Prayer.

**Christ's Lutheran Church**  
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**215-886-4612 + [www.christs-oreland.org](http://www.christs-oreland.org)**  
**[clcsecretary@christs-oreland.org](mailto:clcsecretary@christs-oreland.org)**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Ministers                       | The People of Christ's Lutheran Church               |
| Senior Pastor                   | Reverend Axel Kaegler                                |
| Director of Spiritual Formation | Becca Shelor   |
| Director of Music               | Ken Selinger   |
| Administrative Assistant        | Lorraine Pfeiffer                                    |
| Preschool Director              | Sally Mead   |
| Sexton                          | Pete Carr  |
| Assisting Minister              | Sue Frantz   |
| Communion Assistant             | Sue Frantz   |
| Soundboard                      | Diane Polis  |
| Livestream                      | Rick Daniels, Don Hallman, John Melnick, Paul Zieger |