

**Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 2023 • 10:00 AM**

In-Person and Live Stream Online Worship Guide



Christ the King Lutheran Church  
499 Plaza Drive  
Vestal, NY 13850  
607-729-2688  
[mail@ctkvestal.org](mailto:mail@ctkvestal.org)  
[www.ctkvestal.org](http://www.ctkvestal.org)

**Hearts Loved By God  
Hands To Serve All  
Through Jesus Christ**



**WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN PERSON AND ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

We welcome you to worship with us! We hope you will experience the grace and peace of God’s love present with you. For more information, please contact us by email or phone, or by visiting our Facebook page, or at our website, [www.ctkvestal.org](http://www.ctkvestal.org).

**ABOUT OUR WORSHIP SERVICE**

***ORDER OF WORSHIP***

Worship this morning will be both in person and simultaneously online via Zoom with a live feed to Facebook. The Worship Service follows the pattern of Gather-Word-Meal-Sending. It will include the distribution of communion on-site and the sending of communion to those who are not able to join us in person. Please contact the church office to let us know if you would like communion served to you at home.

***OFFERINGS***

You may present your offering to God for the work of God through Christ the King Lutheran Church online via our website at [www.ctkvestal.org](http://www.ctkvestal.org) and clicking on the “Give Now” button, by leaving it at the church, or by mail.

***IN-PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS***

Christ the King Leadership Team has adopted a series of safety protocols. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are following CDC guidelines for Broome County. When the risk for our county is high, we ask all in-person worshippers to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status for the safety of everyone. Thank you for your understanding. Sanitizing stations are available in the narthex.

***ZOOM ONLINE OR FACEBOOK LIVE***

Joining worship by Zoom online or Facebook Live gives you an opportunity to participate in the live worship service. You may share prayer requests in the chat feature on Zoom or comments on Facebook Live.

**ABOUT CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Christ the King is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.** We are called by Christ to care for, love, understand, and listen to each other. All are welcome, regardless of race, age, gender and gender identities, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, national origin, or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God’s people, committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith, centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Christ the King is a place for all to discover and develop their God-given gifts and share them with the world.

**If you desire Pastoral Care or have a Pastoral Emergency,** please contact the Church Office at 607-729-2688 and leave a message. Your message will be automatically forwarded. Our Pastor and team of caring ministers will respond to your call. You may also call the Pastor directly.

---

## GATHERING

---

+ *Please stand as you are able.*

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

#### **+ Confession**

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Leader: Holy God,

**All: we confess to you our faults and failings.  
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;  
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;  
we spoil rather than steward your creation;  
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;  
we choose fear over compassion.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
as we seek to follow in your way of life.  
Amen.**

#### **+ Words of Assurance**

Leader: 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,  
forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**All: Amen.**

- 1 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.
  
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a 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.
  
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

+ **Greeting**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

+ **Prayer of the Day (in unison)**

**Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

---

WORD

---

**First Reading**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Reading of the Psalm (responsively)**

Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 5:8-14

+ **Gospel Acclamation**

**Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of  
life.** (John 8:12)

+ **Gospel Reading**

John 9:1-41

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter 9, verses 1 through 41.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:*

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Jeff Bohan

+ **Hymn of the Day**

*Dearest Jesus, at Your Word*

**ELW No. 520**

1 Dearest Jesus, at your word  
we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you  
as the promises here given  
draw us wholly up to heaven.

- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
till your Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living  
come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,  
Light of light from God proceeding,  
Jesus, send your blessed light;  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
that our prayers and songs may please you,  
as with grateful hearts we praise you.
- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
praise to you and adoration!  
Grant us what we need the most:  
all your gospel's consolation  
while we here on earth await you,  
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

**+ The Nicene Creed (in unison)**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*During the prayers, worshippers are invited to lift up prayers, wherever they are, and by the posting of your prayer on Zoom Chat or Facebook, for the people, places and situations for which we are thankful or are in need of prayer.*

We will pray following the petition bidding style:

*Each petition concludes, "God of grace..."  
to which the congregation responds, "...hear our prayer."*

### **+ The Peace**

*In an act of unity, blessing, and reconciliation, we greet one another with the Peace of Christ. (Matthew 5:23-24). For safety reasons during this time of Covid-19, the peace is shared by uttering words of peace, by gesturing with hands or by bowing.*

Leader: Be kind to one another, and tenderhearted forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ has forgiven you. The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

---

## MEAL

---

### **Our Offerings are Gathered**

*Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. In joyous gratitude, we bring more than money; we bring ourselves, our time and our talent as an offering to God. Please take a moment to offer yourself anew to God. You are also invited to present an offering to God for the work of God's mission through Christ the King by giving online at [www.ctkvestal.org](http://www.ctkvestal.org) and clicking the "Give Now" button, by leaving your offering at church, or by mail. For those present in the sanctuary, you may leave your offering in the offering plate as you exit the sanctuary.*

### **Offertory**

#### **Offering Prayer (in unison)**

**God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
Amen.**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The thanksgiving continues with the proper preface... "and join their unending hymn."*

**All: 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.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

#### **The Words of Institution**



### **The Lord's Prayer (in unison)**

**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.  
Forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

#### **Distribution of Communion**

*We go to the table to encounter the body and blood of the living Christ in bread and wine, through which faith is nourished and sins are forgiven. Please proceed to the altar through the center aisle where you will receive a piece of bread from a worship leader. Then proceed to one of the chalice bearers and dip your bread in the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (glass chalice). In addition to bread, we have a gluten free station. Should you prefer gluten free, please proceed directly to the station to the right of the baptismal font when you come forward.*

### **Communion Song**

*Just As I Am, without One Plea*

**ELW No. 592**

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 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,
- 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

## Communion

*Please hold your bread and cup until all have been served and then we will commune together.*

### + Prayer after Communion (in unison)

**Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.  
Amen.**

---

## SENDING

---

### + Sending Hymn

*Be Thou My Vision*

**ELW No. 793**

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

## Announcements

### + Blessing

Leader: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod bless,  
strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

All: **Amen.**

## Postlude

**Looking Ahead:**

Sunday, March 19	Congregational Meeting following Worship
Saturday, March 25	Men's Group at 9:00 AM
Sunday, March 26	No service at CTK
Sunday, April 2	<i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship with Communion at CTK at 10:00 AM

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 19, 2023 following WORSHIP SERVICE**

Christ the King Lutheran Church will hold a special congregational meeting on March 19, 2023. The purpose of the meeting is to determine the future direction of the Church. Two proposals will be before the Congregation. The Congregation has previously decided that the Church is incapable of continuing in its present form. Resources have diminished significantly in the past three years, and the Congregation no longer has the number of people, income, and energy necessary to sustain the Church body and Church building. Too few people are trying to do too many things. The Congregation has therefore determined that a choice must be made between Holy Closure and merger with another local Lutheran Church or Churches. Merger would mean meeting with other congregations to determine how the new congregation would operate, and what Christ the King would bring to that new body. Members of Christ the King would become members of the new congregation. Closure would mean that Christ the King ceases to function, and members would seek out their own spaces to worship and participate in the life of the Church. In either case, Christ the King will be required to engage in a process of cataloging the Church's property and assets, and in determining how to distribute those assets. The Church building will most likely be sold and the proceeds of the sale distributed according to the wishes of Christ the King. All of that will require continuing work from the Church body. The Synod will provide legal and administrative support for the process. The Church Office can provide written materials on the merger and closure options. The Leadership Team realizes that this is a distressing and disappointing moment in our life together, but, as always, we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us to where God needs us to be.

**Christ the King Lutheran Church Staff and Leadership**

Church Office Number: (607) 729-2688

[mail@ctkvestal.org](mailto:mail@ctkvestal.org)

[www.ctkvestal.org](http://www.ctkvestal.org)

**Transitional Pastor:** Rev. Jeff Bohan

**Church Administrator:** Marsha Pulz

**Music Director:**

**Sexton:** Gary Robertson

**Leadership Team**

Co-Presidents: David Banner and Len Lindenmuth

Secretary: Rich Lindstrom

Treasurer: Tammy Gow

Kathy Leonard, John Lurenz

Parts of our liturgy today are from SundaysandSeasons.com copyright 2011 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License #SBL15534. Parts of our liturgy are adapted from Worship Design Studio by permission. The Lenten themes are from the Worship Design Studio.

Songs reprinted with permission under One License A717-929. All rights reserved.