



**March 9, 2025**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**  
***First Sunday in Lent***  
**10:00 a.m.**

***Pastor Samantha Perret, Presiding***

***Welcome to all who worship with us today, especially our visitors. We invite you to return and worship with us again.***

Hymns are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service Book and Hymnal (red book).



**+ GATHERING +**

Welcome and Announcements

\* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Music today by Pr. Sam*

**\*Gathering Hymn:** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

**ELW:** #611

\*Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

*Reading for us today is: Delphine Blewitt*

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13**

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel: Luke 4:1-13**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day:** *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

**ELW:** #319

**\*Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess our faith, in the words of the 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.**

*Sharing prayers with us today is: Sr. Carol Weaver*

**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.*

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill, especially those on our prayer list below, all whom we send cards through our Care Card Ministry, on our prayer tree and those we now name in our hearts or with our voices... [*Current prayer list: Jared A, Mary Y, Beth C, Matt, Kristina, Jace, Keith W, Brittany, Larisa & JTL, JP, Barbara S, Kathy M, Joshua, Luna, Myra S, Elaine W, Jim C, Arlene & William S, Judy J, Jacky A, Eva B, Shawn Y, Candie L, Mark B, Nadia & Gary M, Glenn & Ann, Betsy C, Adam K, Don M, Lori, Susan A, Randy and Priscilla B, Randolph K, Jeff S.*] . God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Generous God, we know that all good things come from you, and we give you thanks for the many blessings we have received. We name before you now some of the gifts for which we are thankful... God of grace, **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.**

**\*Sharing the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

+ Meal +

\*Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray,

**C: 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.**

\*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and Earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.**



④ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Assisting with Communion today is: Charmaine Lawton*

**Communion Distribution:** This is the Lord's table and **all** are invited to participate in this banquet of life.

\*Post Communion Blessing

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

**C: Amen.**

A: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

**+ SENDING +**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

**ELW:** #326

P: Go in peace, share the good news!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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**Lenten Midweek Services:** Midweek Lenten soup and bread will be on Thursdays at 6PM with the first one Thursday, March 13th here at Cross of Christ in the Community Room. We will alternate locations each week with Prospect Congregational Church. Please let me know if you are interested in making soup or bringing some bread. I will post a Zoom link next Sunday if you wish to join for the conversation portion beginning at 6:20pm.

**Bible Study:** On hiatus through Lent.

**Conference Series:** Saturday, March 15th at 1PM we will host Rev. Dr. David Grafton and two of his peacebuilding colleagues for a discussion on ***Fasting during Lent and Ramadan.*** Admittance is free, no registration required. Event will take place in the Community Room.

**GWIM Urgent Needs:** Bags of parboiled rice, canned chicken, boxed mashed potatoes, elbow pasta

**Stock the socks!!** We will be collecting latex-free winter socks for men, women and children from February 23 - March 16.

**Concert for GWIM:** The Waterbury Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has chosen GWIM to be the beneficiary of the free will offering that will be taken at their upcoming ***Choir Festival Concert on Sunday, March 23 at 4:30 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church***

***in Waterbury.*** This is a special way we can support GWIM in this difficult economic time. Barbara thanks each of you for your support.

**Altar Care Volunteers:**

Today: Sr. Carol Weaver & Tish Hunter  
3/16: Charmaine Lawton & Delphine Blewitt  
3/23: Janine Kifer & Tish Hunter

**Hospitality Volunteers:**

Today: Tish Hunter  
3/16: TBA - Please see signup sheet in Community Room  
3/23: Blanche Feero

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

1555 Hamilton Ave. Waterbury CT 06706-2401

Office: 203-527-3752

Pastor Samantha (Sam) Perret, Presiding

860-790-1108

[office@crossofchrist-wtby.org](mailto:office@crossofchrist-wtby.org)

[www.crossofchrist-wtby.org](http://www.crossofchrist-wtby.org)

[facebook.com/waterburycrossofchrist](https://facebook.com/waterburycrossofchrist)

*To welcome all into safe, sacred relationship, as the Spirit works through us to embody God's love and grace in the world.*

