

SAVIOR
SERVANT
FRIEND



LISTENER

Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 19th, 2025

Christ Lutheran Church

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MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE—WEEK THREE

Savior, Servant, Friend—Listener

March 19, 2025

AS WE GATHER

In this service for Week 3 of Lent, we embrace the news that Jesus listens to us like no other and answers all our questions and concerns.

*“I have called you friends, for all that I have heard
from my Father I have made known to you.” ~ John 15:15*

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather together as friends knowing that we are heard by the Triune God. We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Answer me when I call, O God, of my righteousness!

All: You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Pastor: Be gracious to me

All: And hear my prayer. (Psalm 4:1)

Pastor: O Lord, You hear the desire of the afflicted;

All: You will strengthen their heart; You will incline Your ear. (Psalm 10:17)

Pastor: I call upon You, for You will answer me, O God;

All: Incline Your ear to me; hear my words. (Psalm 17:6)

Pastor: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;

All: Be gracious to me and answer me! (Psalm 27:7)

OPENING HYMN

“Come, My Soul, With Every Care”

LSB 779

**Come, my soul, with ev’ry care, Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray, therefore will not turn away.**

**Thou art coming to a King, large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and pow’r are such none can ever ask too much.**

**With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt, set my conscience free from guilt.**

**Lord, Thy rest to me impart, take possession of my heart;
There Thy blood-bought right maintain and without a rival reign.**

**While I am a pilgrim here, let Thy love my spirit cheer;
As my guide, my guard, my friend, lead me to my journey’s end.**

**Show me what is mine to do; ev’ry hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith; let me die Thy people’s death.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Lord Jesus, our listening Friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

All: Forgive me, Jesus, for all that I have done to harm my neighbors.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, our listening Friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

All: Forgive me, Jesus, for all that I have failed to do.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, our listening Friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

All: Forgive me, Jesus, for the ways that I have sinned again You in thought, word and deed.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, our listening Friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

All: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on how Jesus listens to—and forgives—the confessions of his people.)

Pastor: Listen now for you will hear Good News! Our Savior, Servant, Friend, Jesus, has heard us confess our sins. He has nailed our sins to the cross, and He has thrown them into the tomb. They are forgiven, and they are gone. Hear these words now as though they were spoken not by me, but by Jesus himself: Friends, your sins are forgiven. Amen.

All: What a Friend we have in Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

† GOD’S WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 29:10-14

(ESV page 780)

¹⁰“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 John 5:13-15

(ESV page 1213)

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

(ESV page 1055)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

PREPARATION HYMN

“My Faith Looks Up To Thee”

LSB 702

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;

As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide;

Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll,

Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

SERMON

“Listener”

John 3:1-17

OFFERING *(You are invited to place your financial gifts to the Lord in the offering plates as they are passed through the pews. You can also give your one-time or recurring gifts to the Lord through the "Vanco Mobile" app for your phone or by clicking on the "Give" tab on our website.)*

PRAYERS

Each petition concludes with the following response:

Pastor: Lord,

All: Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in Jesus' name and as He has taught us:

All: 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Father invites us to come to Him. The Son grants us access through the cross. The Holy Spirit guides us in the way of holiness. And, so, may the triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—be our Friend and Companion now and for all eternity. Amen.

All: What a Friend we have in Jesus!

CLOSING HYMN

“Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult”

**Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day His sweet voice sounding, saying, “Christian, follow Me.”**

**Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us, saying, “Christian, love Me more.”**

**In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love Me more than these.”**

**Jesus calls us—by Thy mercies, Savior, may we hear Thy call;
Give our hearts to Thine obedience, serve and love Thee best of all.**

SERVICE NOTES

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