## CHRIST OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

37 Warner Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07305 *The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn, Pastor* 

Church: 201-433-1836 Pastor: 201-433-2889

Church email: contact.redeemerlutheranjc@gmail.com

Pastor's email: pastor@christourredeemer.net

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesdays: 1:00 - 5:30 Wednesdays: 1:00 - 7:30 Thursdays: 1:00 - 8:30 Fridays: 9:00 - 2:00 Saturdays: As needed Sundays: 7:30 - 11:30

Worship Service – 9:30 AM Sundays (In-person & Online) Zoom Meeting ID: 881 4746 6449; Password: 348873

Phone: 1-646-558-8656

## March 17, 2024

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

#### **WELCOME VISITORS!**

We are delighted that you are worshipping today at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. May your experience with God here be a blessing!

ACCESS FOR ALL: While we stand often during the service, please assume a posture of reverence which you are able or comfortable. An accessible restroom is located in the Parish Hall through the kitchen. If you'd like Communion brought to your seat, our Pastor will gladly assist you. Young worshippers may visit our COR-KIDS Playspace in the rear of the sanctuary. Activity bulletins are available for children.

## How do I find worship music?

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the red book in your pew)

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship (the green book in your pew)

AAH - African American Heritage (the beige book in your pew)

#### Find us online at:

Website: https://www.christourredeemerjc.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ChristOurRedeemerJerseyCity

Instagram: www.instagram.com/cor.jc

Have questions? Interested in baptism or membership? Please speak with our *Pastor Kimberly Vaughn* after service Or, call 201.433.1836.

#### P-Pastor **C-Congregation**

## <u>Prelude</u>

#### Welcome

#### **GATHERING**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Please stand as you are comfortable.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\oplus$  one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

#### **Gathering Hymn:**

There Is A Fountain (AAH 257)

# **Apostolic 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.

#### Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

#### Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

## **Prayer of the Day**

Front page of the Celebrate Insert

P: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

#### WORD

Lessons in *Celebrate* Insert

First Reading

Psalmody

Psalm 51:1-12

Second Reading

Gospel

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

# First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make

a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### **Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12**

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, and cleanse me | from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses, and my sin is ev- | er before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born <sup>|</sup> steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my <sup>|</sup> mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me, and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear | joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken | may rejoice. R

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,

and blot out | all my wickedness.

- <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean | heart, O God, and renew a right spir- | it within me.
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of <sup>|</sup> your salvation and sustain me with your boun- <sup>|</sup> tiful Spirit. R

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10**

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(In honor of God's Good News to us in Jesus, we stand or assume a posture of reverence to receive the reading of the Gospel.)

C: Come by here, dear Lord, come by here. Come by here, dear Lord, come by here. Come by here, dear Lord, come by here. O, Lord, come by here.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

#### Gospel: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

<u>Children's Time</u>
The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn
(Children are welcome to come forward for a special message.)

#### Sermon

The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn

Please stand as you are comfortable.

# **Hymn of the Day:**

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (ELW 337)

## The Apostles' Creed

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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.

# **Prayers of Intercession**

Back page of the Celebrate Insert

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

# A brief silence.

P: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

- P: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- P: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children (*organizations may be named*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- P: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- P: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation (*specific ministries may be named*). Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- P: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us (especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today). Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.
- P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

#### **MEAL**

## **Greeting of Peace**

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

# C: And also with you.

(We share a sign of Christ's peace—a wave, handshake, smile, hug—however you are comfortable!)

Please be seated.

## **Offering & Offertory Music**

(In response to hearing God's Word, we respond with joy in our offering.)

Please stand as you are comfortable.

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all, unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

#### **Offertory Prayer**

P: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **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 him thanks and praise.
- P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- C: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.

#### **Words of Institution**

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.

#### C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: 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.

#### C: Amen.

P: 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.

#### C: Amen.

P: 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.

#### C: Amen.

#### The Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught...

- C: 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
- P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Please be seated.

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Communion Hymn:** Let Us Break Bread Together (ELW 471)

#### **Distribution of Communion**

(Please bring the communion back to your seat to eat and drink. Someone will collect the cups afterwards.)

Please stand as able.

#### **Post-Communion Canticle:**

God is So Good

GOD IS SO GOOD, GOD IS SO GOOD, GOD IS SO GOOD, HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.

HE CARES FOR ME, HE CARES FOR ME, HE CARES FOR ME, HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.

HE'S ALL I NEED, HE'S ALL I NEED, HE'S ALL I NEED HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.

P: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

## **Announcements**

(Please see the last page.)

#### **SENDING**

Please stand as you are comfortable.

## Benediction

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and  $\pm$  give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Sending Hymn** Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing (ELW 545)

<u>Closing Anthem</u> Jesus Remember Me

#### <u>Dismissal</u>

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### Please Remember Our Sick and Shut-Ins:

| Jersey City, NJ      | 201-333-0707  |
|----------------------|---|
| Jersey City, NJ      | 646-940-3464  |
| Linden, NJ           | 201-725-5231  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 551-580-5759  |
| North Plainfield, NJ | 201-798-3460  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 201-333-5752  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 201-451-9057  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 201-432-1486  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 201-434-2251  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 201-432-8215  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 201-492-8108  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 201-432-8215  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 973-444-2266  |
| Jersey City, NJ      | 201-279-2002  |
|                      | Linden, NJ Jersey City, NJ North Plainfield, NJ Jersey City, NJ |

#### **Worship Participants**

Ministers The People of Christ Our Redeemer

Pastor Reverend Kimberly Vaughn

Pianist Kim Norton Lector: Corey Brooks

Counters: Janasia Carter and TBD

Usher: Timekia Carter

## Thank you to those who assisted in today's worship.

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#### **Our Parish Calendar**

#### **March Birthdays:**

Jalia Carter 9<sup>th</sup>
Antoinette Mabry 16<sup>th</sup>
Aniaya Duncan 21<sup>st</sup>
Desiree Persaud 21<sup>st</sup>
Stella Hooper 21<sup>st</sup>
Corey Brooks 23<sup>rd</sup>

# **March Baptism Anniversaries:**

# Worship Assistants for 3/24/2024

Lector: Joy Griggs

Counters: Joy Griggs and TBD Usher: Timekia Carter

# Worship Assistants for 3/31/2024

Lector: Janasia Carter

Counters: Jameka Carter and TBD

Usher: Timekia Carter

## Worship Assistants for 4/7/2024

Lector: Jameka Carter

Counters: TBD Usher: TBD

Worship Assistants for 4/14/2024

Lector: Toni Mabry

Counters: TBD Usher: TBD

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### Congregational:

- LENTEN SERVICES: Wednesday, March 20th marks our 5th and final Lenten supper/worship with each church worshipping in their own setting. Meal begins at 6 pm and worship begins at 7 pm here at Christ Our Redeemer. Invite friends and family!
- SIGHT & SOUND: Thank you to everyone who participated in yesterday's Sight & Sound trip to Pennsylvania!
- BIBLE STUDY NOTE: There will be NO evening bible study on Thur. March 14th and 21st (afternoon only). There will be no afternoon or evening bible study on Thurs. April 4th.
- EASTER FLOWERS: Easter flowers will be ordered to decorate the sanctuary, and donations are now being accepted by any and all. If you would like to dedicate flowers to someone, please fill out and return a dedication form to the church office. Dedications are due by March 27.
- EASTER EGG HUNT for children will be Saturday, March 30, from 1:00 3:00. All children under age 12 are welcome!
- BIBLE STUDY: Join us Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. for conversation on "Daily Discipleship". See Pastor Kimberly for details.
- HOLY BAPTISM/FIRST COMMUNION: If you have questions about receiving the Sacraments of Holy Baptism or First Communion, please see Pastor Kimberly.
- LOOSE CHANGE: Got any spare change? Drop it in the jar after worship—all monies go towards the building fund.
- Please see page 9 for the list of upcoming worship assistants. We are in need of worship assistants for March and following months.

#### NJ Synod and Community:

- The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans. Late fee (Feb. 15—April 15) is \$475. MYLE and tAble registration fee is \$190 (Waived restriction apply). A \$150 nonrefundable and registration fee are due at sign-up.
- NJADLA invites all to celebrate Women's History Month Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 pm via Zoom with Keynote speaker Bishop Patricia Davenport with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (ELCA). Zoom Meeting ID:853 0305 3979; Passcode: 532453

# 126<sup>th</sup> YEAR OF WITNESS AND SERVICE TO CHRIST THROUGH GOD'S WORD, THE LIGHT AND THE TRUTH, WE INVITE ALL TO GROW IN CHRIST

† Connected to Christ † Connected to Each Other † Connected to Community





# **EASTER FLOWER FUND**

| Enclosed is \$ to assist with the cost of flowers to enhance our sanctuary for the Easter season. |
|---|
| Please include the following dedication in the bulletin: TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN MEMORY OF         |
| IN HONOR OF   |
| IN THANKSGIVING FOR   |
| BY:   |

Please return by Wednesday, March 27th

NOTE: Donations in any amount are welcome to cover the cost of flowers

www.christourredeemerjc.org