



Christ United

Second Sunday in Lent

03-01-2026

Welcome!

(Stand)

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: The Son of Man must be lifted up,

C: that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (*John 3:14-15*)

P: Our mission statement guides us so that:

C: We welcome all people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

A: During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Opening Song: TFBF Hymnal #288 (Stand)

Prayer of the Day:

P: God of amazing compassion, lover of our wayward race, you bring to birth a pilgrim people, and call us to be a blessing for others and all the world. We pray for grace to take your generous gift and step with courage on this holy path, confident in the radiant life that is your plan for us, made known and given in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

A: First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a **(Sit)**

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: Psalm 121

A: Second Bible Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17 **(Stand)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd Chapter

C: Glory to you, Lord Christ

The Gospel lesson is read

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Kids Time and the Sermon (Sit)

Song of the Day: Red Hymnal #720 (Stand)

Apostles' Creed (Stand)

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 again 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.

The Prayers

P: God of the covenant, you call us to be fruitful servants within creation, and offer our lives as the foundation of your realm. We lay before you the desires of our hearts, that we may be transformed by their fulfillment.

A: Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Other intercessions may be offered by anyone at this time.

P: Grant, O God, that the prayers we offer may be your channel for new and abundant life not only hoped for, but worked for, through faithful word and deed. **C: Amen.**

The Peace is shared at this time

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

C: And also with you.

People may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

**Offering - March Noisy Offerings MSU Friendship House
(Stand)**

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,

C: You have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, both now and forever.

P: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

C: 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.

(Sit) The Bread is broken

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

C: Thanks be to God.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion today is open to all. The Episcopal and Lutheran Churches believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.

Communion is either wafer and individual cup, or celebrated as spiritual communion. You will receive a wafer from the pastor (gluten-free wafers are available upon request). You will then take a cup from the tray the assistant is holding (wine in the outer rings, grape juice in the center). Eat the wafer and drink from the cup. You will not be ushered but ask that you come forward when ready and return to your seat when you have received communion.

(Stand)

P: Let us pray.

C: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The Blessing

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless you now and always. **C: Amen.**

Closing Song: Song Sheet (Stand)

Announcements

Faith Word for the Week: Strength

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: And This Week

C: Share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ

P: Presiding Minister **A:** Assisting Minister **C:** Congregation

Announcements and Events

Lenten Bible Study

Join Pastor Bryan at CU on Tuesday evenings starting at 5:30 for a Lenten Bible Study learning about “grace.” Feel free to bring a sack supper or take out with you.

Soup Meal

On Wednesdays starting at 6PM, Pastor Bryan will be at Grace Lutheran for a provided soup meal and prayer/devotional time afterwards.

Call Team Update

Our MSP has been submitted/accepted by both the ELCA Synod and Episcopal Diocese. The CU Call team will be meeting with Bishop Julie and the Grace Lutheran Call Team for next steps. Please keep our new Pastor and the process in your thoughts and prayers.

Blanket Project

A member of Grace has fleece material that can be made into tied blankets for those in need. This is an easy and fun task that even the less crafty of us can achieve. We will likely meet on a Tuesday evening during the traditional meeting time (5:40 PM-7:30 ish), date to be determined after Easter.

Community Mutual Aid Needs

We continue to collect warm clothing, blankets, easy to open/eat food items as well as other items on the list. Further, we continue to collect food items for the St. Paul Food Bank. If you are unable to shop, you can always write a separate check/donate to the church indicating which project you would like that extra offering to go to. A list of needs has been emailed and you can also find a list at the entrance of the sanctuary.

Concert

Jaime Sue Seal will be hosting another concert at Christ United on 03/07/26 featuring Irish music by Siusan O'Rourke and Zig Zeitler. Go to www.SmokinSleddogRecords.com for more information/buy tickets!

Weekly/Monthly Events:

Bible Study - Wednesday morning 10am

LGBTQIA+ Bible Study - Third Monday of the month at 7pm at Phillips Cider Bar and Market in Frandor.

Welcome to Christ United

Here is some information to help you feel welcome:

Relax - We don't expect you to stand up and introduce yourself or do anything which makes you feel uncomfortable. Most everything you need is in the bulletin.

Worship Service:

Children are always welcome in worship - There are some small toys in the entrance of the church for your use. The Pastor will invite children to be part of a "Kid's Time" before the sermon. Please feel free to move about as needed to make your children feel comfortable.

Bulletin and Music: Most everything you need is in the bulletin. We also use a variety of music resources, including hymnals and song sheets. Hymnals are located on the cart when you first come into the church. The sign next to the cart will direct you to which to pick up, the 'red' hymnal and/or the 'burgundy' hymnal. Song sheets are located by the bulletins.

Offering - Don't feel obligated to participate in the offering on your first visit. This service is our gift to you. Offering is a response to what God has given us. We also collect a "noisy offering." This is an offering of loose change for needs in our community and world. Each month the offering goes to a different need. The ideas for each of the offerings come from the participants in this ministry.

All are welcome to receive Communion - Whether you are a Christian or not, anyone can take communion here. Also, if you do not want to participate in the receiving of communion, feel free to come forward with your arms folded to receive a blessing.

Building - Restrooms are located on the lower level, at the far end of the building. Bathrooms are for all genders.

Refreshments after Worship - Please join us downstairs after worship for refreshments.

We're glad you came today and look forward to seeing you again! If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us.

Christ United

An Interdenominational Church founded by the Episcopal & Lutheran Church. Welcoming ALL people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ!

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(616) 608-3334 **9:00 AM Sunday Worship** with Communion. Also broadcasting live on Facebook. 1000 West Webb Road, DeWitt, Michigan 48820 www.christuniteddewitt.com