

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fourth Sunday in Lent ☩ March 14, 2021 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music  
Minka Fulton, Musician Leader

P = Pastor L = Lector [reader] C Congregation ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)

**PRELUDES**

*Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate to the number in your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." So in these days of required distancing, longing to share the Lord's Supper again soon physically together at one table of the Lord, we acknowledge communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space. This will be another form of that connection. We understand no precedents are being set in these unique times.*

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Fritz

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer. C Amen.

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.  
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Fountain of living water,

C **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.  
Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood.  
Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world  
you so love. Amen.**

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
Journey in the way of Jesus. C Amen.

**GATHERING SONG: Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

ELW Hymn 733

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

*Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain**

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

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**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us  
from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever C Amen.

**DIALOGUE: based on Galatians 5:16-26, “Fruitful Living”**

- L** Our Dialogue is based on our Lenten Theme. Please read responsively with me—you at home, too.
- L** Lord, sometimes life is hard when people get so negative with each other.
- C** **Where is the joy in life when we tear each other down with enmity, strife, and jealousy?**
- L** It’s hard to breathe when the atmosphere is polluted with quarrels, dissensions, factions, and envy.
- C** **So Jesus followers, listen up! As St. Paul encourages us, be the positive change.**
- L** Allow the Holy Spirit to bear new fruit through each of you: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, goodness, and self-control.
- C** **By shifting the menu to what Christ offers, others will start tasting the kingdom of God.**
- L** Word of God, word of life. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People****ELW Hymn 519*

- 1** **Open your ears, O faithful people, open your ears and hear God's word.  
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood, God has come to you.**

*Refrain: God has spoken to the people. We will praise our God!*  
**God has spoken words of wisdom. We will praise our God!**  
**God has spoken to the people. We will praise our God!**  
**God has spoken words of wisdom. We will praise our God!**

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

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**GOSPEL: Matthew 20:29-34**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twentieth chapter.
- C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**A**s [the disciples and Jesus] were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. <sup>30</sup>There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” <sup>31</sup>The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, “Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!” <sup>32</sup>Jesus stood still and called them, saying, “What do you want me to do for you?” <sup>33</sup>They said to him, “Lord, let our eyes be opened.” <sup>34</sup>Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

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

**SERMON**

Melissa Jacobson

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Will You Come and Follow Me?****ELW Hymn 798*

- 1** **“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**
- 2** **“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”**
- 4** **“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?” ▶**

5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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## OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

**P** Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

**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 THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God." Please respond, "Your mercy is great."  
The prayers are ended with these words, "We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you,  
O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord." Please respond, "Amen."*

INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

## 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P** 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

## SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

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*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:  
“The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

### HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

*ELW Hymn 810*

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

Text: Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt. Public Domain

## PASTORAL BLESSING

### BENEDICTION

- P** You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
- C** Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN: *Faith of Our Fathers (alternate text)*

*ELW Hymn 813*

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.**

*Refrain: Faith of our fathers, holy faith; we will be true to you till death.*

- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith, your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole, making love known and freedom real.  
Faith of our mothers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death. *Refrain***
- 3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too, who still must bear oppression's might,  
raising on high, in prisons dark, the cross of Christ still burning bright.  
Faith for today, O living faith, we will be true to you till death. *Refrain***
- 4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet, bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross until the world is made anew.  
Faith born of God, O living faith, we will be true to you till death. *Refrain***

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, st. 1, alt.; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2-4  
Text sts. 2-4 © Joseph R. Alfred, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Share the good news of God's kindness.  
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

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