

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

The Third Sunday in Lent ☩ March 7, 2021 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music

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 Miriam

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: *Thy Lovingkindness*

- 1. Thy lovingkindness is better than life. Thy lovingkindness is better than life.**
My lips shall praise thee, thus will I bless thee. I will lift up my hands unto thy name.
- 2 I lift my hands, Lord, unto thy name. I lift my hands, Lord, unto thy name.**
My lips shall praise thee, thus will I bless thee; I will lift up my hands unto thy name.
- 3 I'll show thy kindness to all around me. I'll show thy kindness to all around me.**
My lips shall praise thee, thus will I bless thee. I will lift up my hands unto thy name.
- 4. Safe in thy shadow I will rejoice. Safe in thy shadow I will rejoice.**
My lips shall praise thee, thus will I bless thee. I will lift up my hands unto thy name.

CCLI Song #11012

Words and Music by Mitchell Hugh

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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 Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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: *We Thank You, Lord, for You Are Good*

**We thank you, Lord, for you are good. Your mercy lives forever.
Your KINDNESS from of old has stood. Your love will keep us ever.
O God of gods, O sov’ reign Lord, we bless you now with one accord.
Your love is everlasting.**

GOSPEL: Mark 14:3-9

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

While [Jesus] was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show **KINDNESS** to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

HYMN OF THE DAY: *O God of Mercy, God of Light**ELW Hymn 714*

- 1** **O God of mercy, God of light, in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives in you.**
- 3** **Teach us the lesson Jesus taught: to feel for those his blood has bought,
that ev'ry deed and word and thought may work a work for you.**
- 4** **For all are kindred, far and wide, since Jesus Christ for all has died;
grant us the will, and grace provide, to love them all in you.**
- 5** **In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there give help as though to you.**

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

*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: *A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar* Tune: *HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?*

- 1** A prophet-woman broke jar, by Love's divine appointing.
With rare perfume she filled the room, presiding and anointing.
A prophet-woman broke a jar, the sneers of scorn defying.
With rare perfume she filled the room, preparing Christ for dying.
- 4** The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, by Love's divine ordaining,
The friends we need, to serve and lead, their powers and gifts unchaining.
(3) The Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire, on free and slave descending,
Can tumble our dividing walls, our shame and sadness mending.

Text: Brian Wren, 1991

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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: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**ELW Hymn 674*

- 1** Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 2** Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*
- 3** Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

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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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