

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

The Third Sunday of Easter ☩ April 18, 2021 ☩ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.
Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music
Jim and Marty Hagberg, Musician Leaders, 8:30 and 11:00

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

Gracism

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- ☒ Christ is risen. ☒ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- ☒ Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
- ☒ **We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.**
- ☒ Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
- ☒ **Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

ELW Hymn 389

- 1 **Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**
- 2 **Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.**
- 3 **IN EV'RY INSULT, RIFT, AND WAR, WHERE COLOR, SCORN, OR WEALTH DIVIDE,
CHRIST SUFFERS STILL, YET LOVES THE MORE, AND LIVES, WHERE EVEN HOPE HAS DIED.**
- 4 **Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

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GREETING

- ☒ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
☒ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☒ Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☒ **Amen.**

- L** The Lesson is from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthian Christians, the twelfth chapter. Please join me in reading responsively, even if you are at home.
- L** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- C** ¹³**For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**
- L** ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.
- WOMEN** ¹⁵**If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.**
- MEN** ¹⁶**And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body ...**
- WOMEN** ²¹**The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,”**
- MEN** **nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”**
- L** ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,
- C** ²³**and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor,**
- L** and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;
- C** ²⁴**whereas our more respectable members do not need this.**
- L** But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member,
- C** ²⁵**that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.**
- L** ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;
- C** **if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.**
- L C** ²⁷**Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.**
- L** Word of God, word of life. **C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

ELW Hymn 377

**1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

Refrain: **Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**2 Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain**

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GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-30

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

[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go — the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

- 1** There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
 There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.
 There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.
- 2** There is WELCOME for the sinner, and a promised GRACE made good;
 there is MERCY with the Savior; there is HEALING in his blood.
 There is GRACE enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
 there is ROOM for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.
- 3** FOR THE LOVE OF GOD IS BROADER THAN THE MEASURES OF OUR MIND;
 AND THE HEART OF THE ETERNAL IS MOST WONDERFULLY KIND.
 BUT WE MAKE THIS LOVE TOO NARROW BY FALSE LIMITS OF OUR OWN;
 AND WE MAGNIFY ITS STRICTNESS WITH A ZEAL GOD WILL NOT OWN.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt. Public Domain

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 end with these words, "In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; 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 delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation; and so, with the church on earth, all creation 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

- ☩ **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 in the sanctuary or 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: *One Bread, One Body*

ELW Hymn 496

Refrain: **One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth, WE ARE ONE BODY IN THIS ONE LORD.**

- 1** **Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. *Refrain***
2 **Many the gifts, many the works, ONE IN THE LORD OF ALL. *Refrain***

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PASTORAL BLESSING

BENEDICTION

- ☩ **May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.**
- ☩ **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *We Are All One in Mission*

ELW Hymn 576

- 1** **We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.**
- 2** **WE ALL ARE CALLED FOR SERVICE, TO WITNESS IN GOD'S NAME.
OUR MINISTRIES ARE DIFF'RENT; OUR PURPOSE IS THE SAME:
TO TOUCH THE LIVES OF OTHERS WITH GOD'S SURPRISING GRACE,
SO EV'RY FOLK AND NATION MAY FEEL GOD'S WARM EMBRACE.**

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DISMISSAL

- ☩ **Alleluia! Christ is risen. ☩ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!****
- ☩ **Go in peace. Share the good news. Invite everyone to Jesus' pathway of joy and life! Alleluia!**
- ☩ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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Altar Guild: Peg Schaum and Pat Ronco

Tech Crew: Brad Milburn, Carol Jensen-Linton, Lindsay Eggen, Joni Siefert

Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Kathie Manes in celebration of Mike Manes' birthday.