

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fifth Sunday of Easter ☩ May 2, 2021 ☩ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

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

☐ = 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 Fritz

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

☐ Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness ..."

☑ **So God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them.**

[Genesis 1:26-27, New English Translation]*

☐ 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.

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GATHERING HYMN: *All Are Welcome*

ELW Hymn 641

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain***

**5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain***

GREETING

2

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
G **Amen.**

LESSON: Psalm 146:6-9 and Isaiah 58:6-7, 12

(Good News Translation)

- L** Today's lesson comes from Psalm 146 and Isaiah 58.
L The Creator of heaven, earth, and sea ... judges in favor of the oppressed and gives food for the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free and gives sight to the blind. He lifts those who have fallen; He protects the strangers and helps widows and orphans.
G **Whenever YOU do these things ... YOU DO IT TO ME.** *[Matthew 25:40]*
L ⁶“The LORD says, “The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. ⁷Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives ... ¹²You will be known as the people who rebuilt the walls, who restored the ruined houses.”
G **Whenever YOU do these things ... YOU DO IT TO ME.** *[Matthew 25:40]*
L Word of God, word of life. **G** **Thanks be to God.**

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *To Be Your Presence*

ELW Hymn 546

- 2** **To be your presence is our mission bold, to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,
to be your hands of justice, right uphold, alleluia!**
3 **To be your presence is our mission blest, to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed, alleluia!**
4 **We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your people is our call and choice,
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice, alleluia!**

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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GOSPEL: Matthew 25:34-36, 40

(The Message)

- P** The Good News according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
G **Glory to you, O Lord.**
P “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:
MEN **I was hungry and you fed me,**
P I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, **MEN** **I was homeless and you gave me a room,**
WOMEN: I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
P I was sick and you stopped to visit, **WOMEN: I was in prison and you came to me.’**
G **Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—
you did it to me.”** **P** ... Jesus replied, “Then, go and do the same.”
P The Gospel of the Lord. **G** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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SERMON

Pastor Miriam

- 1 Holy [Christ, once] in the manger, long ago yet ever near;
 come as friend to ev'ry stranger, come as hope for ev'ry fear.
 As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
 as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.
- 2 Once again we tell the story--how your love for us was shown,
 when the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
 Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
 May the fire of your compassion kindle ev'ry land and race.
- 3 Holy [Christ, once] in the manger, lead us ever in your way,
 so we see in ev'ry stranger how you come to us today.
 In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
 that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

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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 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: *United at the Table*

ELW Hymn 498

Refrain: **United at the table: all our joy is joined in song.
United in the faith: all our joy to God belongs.**

1 We will praise God, we will sing alleluias with hymns and with psalmody;
we will praise God for the love that sustains us eternally. *Refrain*

2 We will praise God, we will feast at the bountiful table of life and grace;
we will praise God and give thanks for communion with ev'ry race. *Refrain*

Text: Joaquín Madurga; tr. Angel Mattos, b. 1947, and Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

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PASTORAL BLESSING

BENEDICTION

[based on Colossians 3:12-15]

P Holy and beloved children of God, remember, you are created in the image of God! So, remember, in the strength and joy of God's grace, we got this! Are you ready? Let's do this!

☩ In the power of God's grace, we are clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, and patience.

P In the power of God's grace, we can bear with one another and forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven us.

☩ In the power of God's grace, we are clothed with god's love, which binds us together.

P May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

☩ Whenever WE do these things ... WE DO IT TO HIM who created us in his image.

P The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **☩** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *In Christ Called to Baptize*

ELW Hymn 575

1 In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.

2 In Christ called to banquet, one table we share, a haven of welcome, a circle of care.
Although we are many, we share in one bread. One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our head.

3 In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach the life-giving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☩ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Invite everyone to Jesus' pathway of joy and life! Alleluia!

☩ Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Altar Guild: Jan and Jim Christopher

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