

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

God and Country Sunday ☩ July 4, 2021 ☩ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

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

P = Pastor **L** = Lector [reader] **C** Congregation *ELW* = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the red hymnal)

PRELUDE

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

HYMN OF PRAISE: *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

- 1** **My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims pride,
From every mountain side, let freedom ring.**
- 2** **My native country, thee, land of the noble free, Thy name I love,
I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills, like that above.**
- 3** **Our forebears' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might, Great God, our king.**

DIALOGUE: THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE - July 4, 1776

- L** When God created humankind, he made them in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and God blessed them and named them "Humankind" when they were created. {Genesis 5:1}
- C** **"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.**
- L** "Among these are Life ..."
- C** **Jesus said, "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly." {John 10:10}**
- L** "Among these are Liberty ..."
- C** **Proclaim liberty to the captives. Bring good news to the oppressed. Bind up the brokenhearted. Proclaim release to the prisoners. And proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. {Isaiah 61:1}**
- L** "Among these are the Pursuit of Happiness ..."
- C** **The Master answered, "Come share my happiness with me." {Matthew 25:21}**
- L** To secure these rights of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.
- C** **For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore ... For we are called to freedom, brothers and sisters. {Galatians 5:1}**

GREETING

- P** From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties working toward justice and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

L We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.

G **Respect the Lord your God, and do what he has told you to do. Love him. Serve the Lord your God with your whole being, and obey the Lord's commands and laws that I am giving you today for your own good.** {Deuteronomy 6:12-13}

LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-8

L This morning's lesson is from Paul's letter to the Christians at Ephesus, the first chapter.

Praise be to God for giving us through Christ every possible spiritual benefit as citizens of Heaven! For consider what he has done—before the foundation of the world he chose us to become, in Christ, his holy and blameless children living within his constant care. He planned, in his purpose of love, that we should be adopted as his own children through Jesus Christ—that we might learn to praise that glorious generosity of his which has made us welcome in the everlasting love he bears towards the Son. It is through the Son, at the cost of his own blood, that we are redeemed, freely forgiven through that full and generous grace which has overflowed into our lives and opened our eyes to the truth.

—J.B. Phillips

L Word of God, word of life.

G **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85:8-13

L ⁸I will hear what the Lord will say, for he will speak peace over his people ...

G ⁹**Without a doubt, his salvation is near for those who revere him.**

L ¹⁰Unfailing love and truth have met on their way;

G **righteousness and peace have kissed one another.**

L ¹¹Truth will spring from the earth like a plant, and justice will look down from the sky.

G ¹³**Justice will come before Him, marking out a path, setting a way for his feet.**

—The Voice

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Down by the Jordan*

Tune: *LOBE DEN HERREN*

1 Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
“God will forgive! Show that you’ll change how you live! Surely God’s new day is rising!”

2 There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
“Are you God’s Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?”
“No!” John replied. “He who is mightier than I judges and offers salvation.”

4 Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God’s Spirit.
Freed and forgiven, we’re welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
This is God’s sign! This is how God says, “You’re mine!” Let’s take the good news and share it!

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

P The Gospel according to Mark, the sixth chapter.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P ¹⁴Jesus had become so well known that King Herod received reports of all that Jesus was doing. Some were saying,

G **“John the Baptist had been raised from the dead and ... these mighty works were the fruits of his resurrection.**

P Some said ...

G **Jesus [is] Elijah, returned to work on the earth,**

P while others said ...

G **he [is] another of the prophets from old.**

P Herod said:

HEROD ¹⁶*No, it is John, the prophet I beheaded, risen from the dead.*

P For the blood of John was on his hands.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸Herod had imprisoned John in the days before Jesus began his teaching. John had preached to Herod:
JOHN *[You] should not have married [your] own brother's wife, Herodias, for so it is written in the Hebrew Scriptures ...*

P John taught hard truths, and yet ²⁰Herod feared John as a holy and righteous man and did what he could to protect him. So Herod had put John in prison instead of executing him; ²¹⁻²²and there John sat until Herod's birthday, when the governor held a great state dinner. That night, Herod's stepdaughter danced beautifully for the state officials; and [Herod] proclaimed a solemn vow in the presence of his honored guests, military officers, and some of the leading men of Galilee.

HEROD *Ask me whatever you wish, and I will grant it.* ²³*Whatever you want, I will give you—up to half my province.*

P ²⁴She went out and consulted with her mother, Herodias, who had only one great desire and told her daughter what she must say.

HEROD'S STEPDAUGHTER *(immediately, in response to Herod):* ²⁵*I want the head of John the Baptist—right now—delivered to me on a platter.*

P ²⁶Herod was horrified, but he had sworn an oath ... in front of his invited guests. ²⁷So immediately he sent an executioner to the prison to behead John and bring them the head. ²⁸It was brought to the girl upon a platter, and she took it to her mother. —*The Voice*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Land of Bounty! Land of Beauty!*Tune: *BEACH SPRING*

- 1 **Land of bounty! Land of beauty! Land of hope, so rich in Grace!
From our founding in new promise to our rocketing through space,
Creature habitats abounding, mountain grandeur, tidal streams,
Fertile farmland, vast resources shine as gifts surpassing dreams.**
- 2 **Called to share fair freedom's treasures, we became a beacon bright,
Off'ring to the yearning pilgrims opportunity as right;
Mettle strengthened by our melding, all earth's cultures our alloy,
Tempered and refined by talent, fruitful in creative joy.**
- 3 **But when pride in independence joins with passion to possess,
Social bonds sell out to power; common good, to selfishness.
When we seek mere private riches, poor in heart t'ward others' needs,
All our high words may ring hollow if not matched by caring deeds. ►**

- 4 **Just and loving God of nations, guide our mending ev'ry flaw.
Shed again your light, your mercy, on our liberty in law.
May our noblest patriot visions prize anew this land, our home,
And yet see, in sharper focus, your bold truth and peace now come!**

Text: William A. Pasch, 2011. Dr. Pasch is Organist and Composer-in-Residence at First Presbyterian Church in Peachtree City. He is married to Pastor Katie Pasch.

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 "Lord, in your mercy," Please respond, "**hear our prayer.**"*
*The prayers end with these words, "We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace."
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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 *(Please use "Our Father in heaven" at 9:45.)*

- 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 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.”*

COMMUNION HYMN: *America, the Beautiful*

ELW Hymn 888

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain:
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**
- 3 O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

Text: Katherine Lee Bates, 1859-1929

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PASTORAL BLESSING

BENEDICTION

- ☞ The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✙ be upon you now and forever. ☛ **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: *Bless All the Nations, Lord*

Tune: God Bless America

- 1 Bless all the nations, Lord, you give as home.
Bless all leaders with wisdom with the light shining bright from your throne.
Bless the homeless and the hopeless, all the children, lost and lone.
Bless all the nations, Lord, you give as home. Bless all the nations, Lord, you give as home.**
- 2 Help us to love the world, just as you do.
Fill our hearts, Lord, with Christ's love that we all may give glory to you.
Bless the hungry and the weary. Show us all what we can do.
Help us to love the world just as you do; bring peace to all the world; we trust in you.**
- 3 Where people fight and die, may conflict cease.
Touch the people in all lands with a heartfelt commitment to peace.
Heal all hatreds, calm all vengeance. From such passions bring release.
Bless all the nations, Lord, so wars may cease. Give to all people, Lord, your wondrous peace.**

Words: Rev. Dr. Fred Meuser. Used by permission. Suggested by Pastor Fred Wiese.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. Share Jesus' gifts of joy and life with all you meet.
☛ **Thanks be to God.**

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Tech Crews: Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins, 8:30; Justin, Andrew, Eric, and Shelly Jakubowski, and Brad Milburn, 9:45; Carol Jensen-Linton, Joni Siepert, Brad Milburn, 11:00

Altar Guild: Jennifer Archer-Denton, Carol Jensen-Linton

Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God by Carol Talbott, in celebration of the 92nd birthday of her mother, Joyce Murry; and by Pat and Dick Ronco in memory of their daughter, Christine Ronco Anderson.