

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

The Third Sunday after Pentecost † June 13, 2021 † 8:30 A.M.

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

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

GATHERING HYMNS: *O God, Beyond All Praising; O Day of Peace*

ELW Hymns 880, 711

- 1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.**
- 2 The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—
though SMALL IN MORTAL STATURE, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.**
- 3 O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.**
- 4 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM ALL.
Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.**

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Text, 3-4: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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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.
- G** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.**

LESSON: Proverbs 30:24-28

- L** This morning's first lesson is from Proverbs, the thirtieth chapter, beginning with verse 24.

There are four creatures on earth that are small, but they are very wise *and we can learn from them:* 2

²⁵ While ants are hardly a strong species,
they *work constantly* to store up food during the summer;

²⁶ While badgers are animals without *many* defenses,
they *are wise enough* to make their homes in the rocky cliffs;

²⁷ While locusts live without a ruler, they all *know how* to move in formation;

²⁸ While a lizard is easy enough to catch in your hand, it *is shrewd enough* to enter the palaces of kings.
—*The Voice*

LESSON: James 3:4-6a

Our Second Lesson is from James, the third chapter.

Have you ever seen a massive ship *sailing effortlessly across the water*? *Despite its immense size* and the fact that it is propelled by mighty winds, a SMALL RUDDER DIRECTS THE SHIP in any direction the Pilot chooses. ⁵It's just the same with our tongues! It's A SMALL MUSCLE, capable of marvelous undertakings.
And do you know how many forest fires begin *with a single ember* from a small campfire?
⁶The tongue is a *blazing* fire seeking to ignite an entire world of vices. —*The Voice*

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

ELW Hymn 817

1 You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.

Refrain: Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes; kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned MY SMALL BOAT; now with you, I will seek other seas.

2 You know full well what I have, Lord: neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working. *Refrain*

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GOSPEL: Mark 4:30-32, 12:42-43

The Gospel according to Mark, the fourth chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

What else is the kingdom of God like? What earthly thing can we compare it to? ³¹The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the tiniest seed you can sow. ³²But after that seed is planted, it grows into the largest plant in the garden, a plant so big that birds can build their nests in the shade of its branches.
⁴²A poor widow came and put in only two small coins worth only a fraction of a cent.
Jesus (*calling His disciples together*): ⁴³Truly this widow has given a greater gift than any other contribution. —*The Voice*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

HYMN DURING THE SERMON: *He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

ELW Hymn 737

1 He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred, a pulse of being stirred.

2 He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky
of night within the heart, of night within the heart.

5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Savior and our Lord, our Savior and our Lord.

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HYMN OF THE DAY: *To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared?* Tune: *TO GOD BE THE GLORY*

- 1** To what can the kingdom of God be compared?
 A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared,
 And there, where predictable plantings should be, There grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree!

[No Refrain until after Stanza 2]

- 2** A SMALL bit of leaven will change the whole bread: A poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,
 A church reaches out to the youth in the town, A man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.

Refrain: God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:

Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.

Your reign is among us, creation is blessed, When even A FEW FAITHFUL LIVES change the rest.

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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 "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

4

- ☞ **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: *How Small Our Span of Life*

ELW Hymn 636

- 1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death: a single beat within the heart, the catching of a breath, a drop within the ocean's deep, a grain upon the shore, a flash of light before we sleep to see the sun no more.**
- 4 We thank you, God, for kindling faith that lights our transient years, illumining our pilgrimage through mists of doubt and fears; for hope that sees a life beyond the swiftly passing days; for love, both human and divine, that lifts our hearts to praise.**

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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, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** ☞ **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: *Canticle of the Turning*

ELW Hymn 723

- 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

- 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. Refrain**

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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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