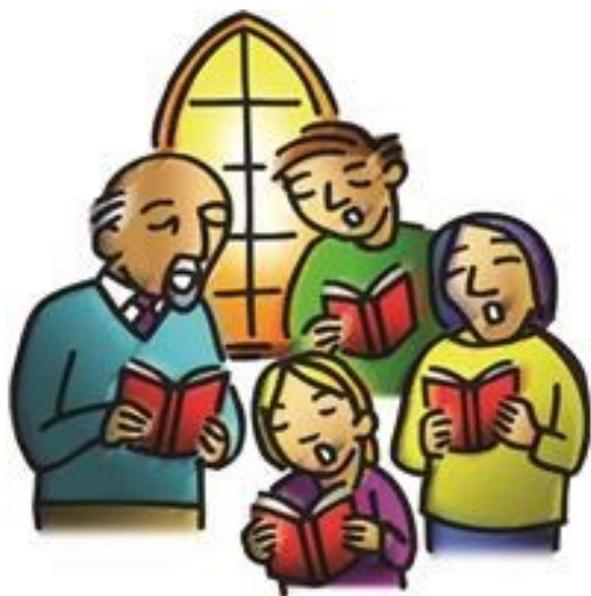


5G CONNECTED FAITH GATHERING



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

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Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fifth Sunday in Lent ☩ April 3, 2022 ☩ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.
Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)*
↑ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please pick up a prefilled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit. At home you may prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate for your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." We acknowledge that communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Miriam

GATHERING

↑ CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed is the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

☑ Amen. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

☐ Holy One,

☑ **we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us!**
Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

☐ Beloved, return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. [Joel 2:13]

In ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

☑ Amen.

↑ GATHERING HYMN: *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

ELW Hymn 461

- 1 **All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**
- 2 **All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**
- 3 **All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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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.**

↑ **HYMN FOR LENT:** *Vieme to, Pane Bože nás*

- 1 *Leader:* O God, Father in heaven, have mercy upon us.
All: **Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev'ry evil, ev'ry woe;
upon your cross-forsaken Son our death is laid, and peace is won.**
- 2 *Leader:* O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us.
All: **Your arms extend, O Christ, to save from sting of death and grasp of grave;
your scars before the Father move his heart to mercy at such love.**
- 3 *Leader:* O God, Holy Spirit, have mercy upon us.
All: **O lavish Giver, come to aid the children that your word has made.
Now make us grow and help us pray; bring joy and comfort; come to stay.**

Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591-1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

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↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- ☞ Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☞ **Amen.**

THE WORD: The “G” of GATHERING

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 56:7-8; 66:18

—*New Century Version*

- ☞ Today's Old Testament Lesson is from Isaiah, the fifty-sixth and sixty-sixth chapters.
- ☞ “I will bring these people to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.
- ☞ **“The offerings and sacrifices they place on my altar will please me,**
- ☞ “because my Temple will be called a house for prayer for people from all nations.”
- ☞ **⁸The Lord God says—he who gathers the Israelites that were forced to leave their country:**
- ☞ “I will bring together other people to join those who are already gathered.
- ☞ **^{18b}“I will gather all nations and all people, and they will come together and see my glory.”**
- ☞ Word of God, word of life. ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Hebrews 10:19-25

—*New Century Version*

- ☞ Today's Epistle is from the letter to the Hebrew Christians, the tenth chapter.
- B**rothers and sisters, we are completely free to enter the Most Holy Place without fear because of the blood of Jesus' death. ²⁰We can enter through a new and living way that Jesus opened for us. It leads through the curtain—Christ's body. ²¹And since we have a great priest over God's house, ²²let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, because we have been made free from a guilty conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed, because we can trust God to do what he promised.
- ²⁴Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. ²⁵You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming.

- ☞ Word of God, word of life. ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us*

ELW page 103

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord. Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second and nineteenth chapters.

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

The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the Law of Moses says a mother is supposed to do after her baby is born. They took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and presented him to the Lord.

²⁵At this time a man named Simeon was living in Jerusalem. Simeon was a good man. He loved God and was waiting for God to save the people of Israel. God's Spirit came to him ²⁶and told him that he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord.

²⁷When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to do what the Law of Moses says should be done for a new baby, the Spirit told Simeon to go into the temple. ²⁸Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God,

²⁹“Lord, I am your servant, and now I can die in peace,
because you have kept your promise to me.

³⁰With my own eyes I have seen what you have done to save your people,

³¹and foreign nations will also see this.

³²Your mighty power is a light for all nations, and it will bring honor to your people Israel.”

...³⁶The prophet Anna was also there in the temple. She was ... eighty-four years old. Night and day she served God in the temple by praying and often going without eating. ³⁸At that time Anna came in and praised God. She spoke about the child Jesus to everyone who hoped for Jerusalem to be set free.

[Years later,] ^{19:47}Every day Jesus taught in the Temple. The chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the leaders of the people wanted to kill him, ⁴⁸but they could not find a way to do it, because all the people kept listening to him, not wanting to miss a single word.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY: 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.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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↑ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

G **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; ►

- 1** As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.
- 2** Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
- 3** Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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ANTHEM during COMMUNION (11:00): *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship**Sanctuary Choir*

*Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, come. (sung twice)*

*One day every tongue will confess you are God. One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now.*

*Willingly we choose to surrender our lives. Willingly our knees will bow.
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we gladly choose you now.*

Words and music by Brian Doerksen © 1998 and this arrangement © 2008 Vineyard Songs, administered in North America by Music Services.

SENDING**↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION**

- ☞** You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God, fatherly and motherly, majestic, and mighty, ☩ bless you this day and always.
- ☞** Amen.

↑ SENDING HYMN: *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**ELW Hymn 545*

- 1** Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2** Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, altered

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↑ DISMISSAL

- ☞** Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- ☞** Thanks be to God.

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*Altar Guild: Sue Forward**Ushers: Stephen Gundersen, Mike and Pat Oliver**Tech Crew: Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins; Brad Milburn, Carol Jensen Linton, Linda Volckmann**No flowers grace the altar during the Lenten season.*