

5G CONNECTED FAITH GROWTH



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent ☩ March 27, 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: *Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Peace Ringers (8:30)

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please pick up a pre-filled 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 Fritz

↑ 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: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

ELW Hymn 678
Alternate Tune: HOLY MANNA

- 1 **God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**
- 2 **Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**
- 3 **Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.**

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company. OneLicense #A701929

↑ 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**

- ☞ God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☞ **Amen.**

READING: The “G” of Growth

Ephesians 4:11-13; James 1:1-4

- ☞ Today's Lessons are from Paul's letter to the Ephesian Christians and from the Epistle of James.
- ☞ The gifts the Spirit gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
- ☞ ¹²**to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.**
- ☞ [From] James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- ☞ ²**My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy,**
- ☞ ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance;
- ☞ ⁴**and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.**
- ☞ 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.

↑ **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33**

- ☞ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *What Is the World Like*

[ACS* Hymn 1047] Tune: SLANE

- 1 **What is the world like when God’s will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.**
- 2 **What is the world like when God’s will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.**
- 3 **What is the world like when God’s will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.**
- 5 **These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God’s will is done.**

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979 Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
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↑ **OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

- ☐ Let us confess our baptismal faith together.
- ☑ **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 “Merciful God,” please respond, “receive our prayer.”
The prayers are ended with these words, “Accept the prayers we bring, O God,
on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.” Please respond, “Amen.”*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>



↑ **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ The Lord be with you. | ☑ And also with you. |
| ☐ Lift up your hearts. | ☑ We lift them to the Lord. |
| ☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. | ☑ It is right to give our thanks and praise. |
- ☐ 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.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- ☑ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- ☐ 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.
Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles.
At home commune each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
"The body of Christ for you" and "The blood of Christ for you."*

ANTHEM: *Love Lifted Me* (8:30)

Peace Ringers

*I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore, very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more.
But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry, from the waters lifted me, now safe am I.
Refrain: Love lifted me! Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, love lifted me.
All my heart to him I give. Ever to him I'll cling. In his blessed presence live, ever his praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs; faithful loving service, too to him belongs. Refrain*

Text: James Rowe, 1912

HYMN during COMMUNION (8:30): *The Reign of God, Like Farmer's Field*

[ACS* Hymn 952]
Tune: ST. AGNES

- 1 **The reign of God, like farmer's field, bears weeds along with wheat;
the good and bad are intertwined till harvest is complete.**
- 3 **Though hidden now, the reign of God may, yet unnoticed, grow;
from deep within it rises up, like yeast in swelling dough.**
- 4 **Like mustard tree, the reign of God from tiny seed will spread,
till birds of ev'ry feather come to nest, and there be fed.**
- 5 **The reign of God is come in Christ; the reign of God is near.
Ablaze among us, kindling hearts, the reign of God is here!**

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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ANTHEM during COMMUNION (11:00): *Too Splendid for Speech, But Ripe for a Song*

Sanctuary Choir

- 1 Too splendid for speech, but ripe for a song: the wonders of God whom we belong!
What tune can we sing? What rich chords can we play to honor the potter who made us from clay?
- 2 We'll catch the soft sounds that sift from the breeze. We'll hum with the whales that hum in the seas.
The waters that tickle the earth into spring will teach us the lilting new life we would sing. ►

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3 The earth is God’s flute, God’s cello and chime. The wind draws the notes. The seasons keep time.
At dusk and at night, from sunrise past noon God’s playing and singing a ravishing tune.

4 The swell of earth’s praise shall build to a blast of trumpets and drums when God comes at last,
Comes to hear if our lives, like the heavens above, are filled with the music of justice and love.

5 Alert to your notes that dance in the heart we promise, O God, that we’ll sing our part
And pray that the song which your song shall inspire will lead ev’ry nation to join in your choir.

**CONGREGATION and CHOIR: O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.**

[Choir only] To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Text: Thomas Troeger, based on Psalm 98, quoting Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Text © 2002 Choristers Guild OneLicense #A701929

↑ **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: *On What Has Now Been Sown***

ELW Hymn 550

1 **On what has now been sown your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow’r is yours alone to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise, and yours alone shall be the praise!**

2 **To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow’rs;
accept what is your own and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive and to your word a blessing give.**

3 **Oh, grant that each of us, now met before you here,
may meet together thus when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav’n, our home. E’en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt. Text is in Public Domain.

↑ **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: Pat Ronco, Peg Schaum

Tech Crew: Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins,

Brad Milburn, Joni Siepert, Carol Jensen Linton, Linda Volckmann

No flowers grace the altar during the Lenten season.

