

GRADUATION SUNDAY



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
May 22, 2022

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The Sixth Sunday of Easter ☩ May 22, 2022 ☩ 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 (hymnal, if you have one at home)*

↑ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE: *I Love To Tell the Story*

The Christ Our Shepherd Winds

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction: you may receive a wafer and dip it in the chalice with wine or white grape juice. Or you may 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

↑ GATHERING HYMN: *Built on a Rock*

ELW Hymn 652

- 1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, even when steeples are falling;
 crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, bells still are chiming and calling—
 calling the young and old to rest, calling the souls of those distressed,
 longing for life everlasting.**
- 3 Christ builds a house of living stones: we are his own habitation;
 he fills our hearts, his humble thrones, granting us life and salvation.
 Where two or three will seek his face, he in their midst will show his grace,
 blessings upon them bestowing.**
- 4 Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is blessing;
 hither we come to praise his name, faith in our Savior confessing.
 Jesus to us his Spirit sent, making with us his covenant,
 granting his children the kingdom.**
- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are ringing,
 many may come to hear your Word, who here this promise is bringing:
 "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the world, my face shall see;
 my peace I leave with you. Amen."**

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; translated by Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapted
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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.
C **And also with you.**

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

READING: Ezra 6:1-5

Ⓛ Today's lesson is from Ezra, the sixth chapter.

King Darius ordered a search through the records in the archives in Babylon. Eventually a scroll was turned up in the fortress of Ecbatana over in the province of Media, with this writing on it:

Memorandum. In his first year as king, Cyrus issued an official decree regarding The Temple of God in Jerusalem, as follows: The Temple where sacrifices are offered is to be rebuilt on new foundations. It is to be ninety feet high and ninety feet wide with three courses of large stones topped with one course of timber. The cost is to be paid from the royal bank. The gold and silver vessels from The Temple of God that Nebuchadnezzar carried to Babylon are to be returned to The Temple at Jerusalem, each to its proper place; place them in The Temple of God.

Ⓛ Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

⤴ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *The Strife Is O'er*

ELW Hymn 366

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done; now is the victor's triumph won!

Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

⤴ **HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:23-29**

Ⓛ The Holy Gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot)], "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Ⓛ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

⤴ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Build Us Up, Lord*

ELW Hymn 670

**1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in us a strong foundation.
Lead us to do your holy will; form and shape your new creation.
Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we guide and teach each other,
help us to share your love with the world: ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother.**

Refrain: **Growing in Christ, we plant seeds for the kingdom; we follow in faith what's begun!
Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your word to spread the news of your Son!**

**2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our lives reflect your glory.
Cast away all our doubts and fears; help us tell the world your story.
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us bear good fruit for you,
Lord, give us vision and keep us sure. Grant us faith that's steadfast and true. Refrain**

↑ 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.

B 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 "God, in your mercy" please respond, "hear our prayer."

The prayers are ended with these words, "In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior." Please respond, "Amen."

OFFERING MUSIC: *Who Puts His Trust in God Most Just* COS Winds, Sanctuary Choir, Congregation

Who puts his trust in God most just hath built his house securely, hath built his house securely.

He who relies on Jesus Christ shall reach his heav'n most surely, shall reach his heav'n most surely.

Then fixed on thee my trust shall be, for thy truth cannot alter.

While mine thou art, not death's worst smart shall make my courage falter, shall make my courage falter.

Music harmonized by J.S. Bach (1685-1750). Text translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). This arrangement for chorus and winds is by James Croft, 1978.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

—ELW page 144

↑ 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.
Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles.
You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in the chalice of wine or white grape juice.
You may also choose a packaged cup with wine or grape juice, or a gluten-free wafer with wine
(as we have been using throughout the pandemic).
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."*

HYMNS during COMMUNION: *O Blessed Spring*

ELW Hymn 447

- 1 **O blessed spring, where word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine:
here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this life-giving Tree.**
- 2 **Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
sustained by Christ's infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again.**
- 3 **When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
then through us, warm, the Christ will move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.**
- 4 **As winter comes, as winters must, we breathe our last, return to dust;
still held in Christ, our souls take wing and trust the promise of the spring.**
- 5 **Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for this blest mystery:
that word and water thus revive and join us to your Tree of Life.**

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

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↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

- ☩ God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
✠ bless you now and forever. ☩ Amen.

↑ SENDING HYMN: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

ELW Hymn 543

- 1 **"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."**
- 2 **"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."**
- 3 **"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, altered

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↑ **DISMISSAL**

℘ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☛ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

℘ Nourished by the Shepherd's abundant love, go forth to walk in the paths of righteousness. Love one another in truth and action. May God's abundant blessings abide in you forever.

☛ **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

↑ **POSTLUDE:** *Klarinetten Muckl*

The Four Ravitas* and Xavier Lee
*Domenic, Liam, Henry, and Oliver

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Altar Guild: Jan and Jim Christopher

Ushers: Stephen Gundersen and Janet Stronach (8:30);

Tom Conrad and Brad Harris (this service)

Tech Crew: Davida Kilgore and Dakota Atkins (8:30);

Carol Jensen-Linton, Joni Siepert, Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn (this service)

Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Paul Talbott, in memory of Paul, Sr., and Mary Talbott.

*Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.*

