

The Sixth Sunday
after The Epiphany



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
February 12, 2023
8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

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The Sixth Sunday after The Epiphany ☩ February 12, 2023 ☩ 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.
Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor
David Beecher, Musician Leader

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
↑ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDES

*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

Pastor Miriam

↑ EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

↑ GATHERING HYMN: *I Come With Joy*

ELW Hymn 482

- 1 **I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.**
- 2 **I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.**
- 3 **As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

↑ GREETING

- ☐ Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
☑ **And also with you.**

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
☑ **Amen.**

LESSON: based on Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Psalm 119:1-8

The Voice

- ☒ The Lesson is based on verses from Deuteronomy, chapter 30, and Psalm 119. Please read with me responsively.
¹⁵Look, I've given you *two* choices today: you can have life with all the good things it brings, or death and all the bad things it brings.
- ☑ ¹⁷**If your heart turns away and you don't listen you will go astray.**
- ☒ ¹⁶Instead, love the Eternal your God; live as he wants you to, then you will be blessed, because ...
^{119:1}Happy are the people who choose life, ²who pursue God wholeheartedly, ³who do *what it takes* to follow his ways. ►

- C** ⁵Everyday, may we say, “Oh, that *every part of my life* would remain on your path!” ⁶⁻⁷Then we would feel no shame for we would be alive, ...with pure hearts and we can give thanks to God.
- L** ¹⁹I am now giving you the choice between life and death ...
- C** ²⁰Choose life, love the Eternal your God, and listen to His voice, for He is your life!
- L** Word of God. Word of life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (8:30) *Let All God's Children Sing* Music and the Master Singers
(11:00) *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* ELW Hymn 836

- 1** Joyful, Joyful we adore thee; God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
- 3** Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-26, abridged from *The Message***

- P** The Holy Gospel is from Matthew, the fifth chapter, beginning at verse 21.
- C** **Glory to you, O Christ God.**
- P** ²¹⁻²²“You’re familiar with the command to the ancients, ‘Do not murder.’ I’m telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother ‘idiot!’ and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell ‘stupid!’ at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire.
- C** **The simple moral fact is that words kill.**
- P** ²³⁻²⁴“This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately,
- C** **go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.**
- P** ²⁵⁻²⁶“Or say you’re out on the street and an old enemy accosts you. Don’t lose a minute.
- C** **Make the first move; make things right with him.**
- P** ²⁷⁻²⁸“You know the next commandment pretty well, too: ‘Don’t go to bed with another’s spouse.’ But don’t think you’ve preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your *heart* can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your *body*.
- C** ²⁹⁻³⁰“**Let’s not pretend this is easier than it really is.**
- P** ³¹⁻³²“Remember the Scripture that says, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him do it legally, giving her divorce papers and her legal rights’? Too many of you are using that as a cover for selfishness and whim, pretending to be righteous just because you are ‘legal.’
- C** **Please, no more pretending.**
- P** You can’t use legal cover to mask a moral failure.... ³³⁻³⁷“And don’t say anything you don’t mean. Just say ‘yes’ and ‘no.’
- C** **When you manipulate words to get your own way, you go wrong.**
- P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken*

ELW Hymn 603

- 1 **God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.**
- 2 **Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress, for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.**
- 3 **You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.**
- 4 **Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life. Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.**
- 5 **Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true, give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!**

Text: Fred Kaan, (1929-2009)
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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 PEOPLE

*When the petition concludes "Merciful God," please respond, "receive our prayer."
 The prayers are ended with these words, "We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified." Please respond, "Amen."*

OFFERING

We acknowledge that you may have already offered your gifts electronically or by mail. Thank you.

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



OFFERING MUSIC: Reverie (8:30)

Music and The Master Ringers

↑ **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; By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.
- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.**

↑ 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 OF THE MEAL

*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.
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."*

COMMUNION HYMN: *Beloved, God's Chosen*

ELW Hymn 648

- 1 **Beloved, God's chosen, put on as a garment
compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.
Above all, before all, let love be your raiment
that binds into one every dissonant part.**
- 2 **Within, call forth Wisdom, to dwell in you richly;
let peace rule your hearts, and that peace be of Christ.
And from the heart's chamber, beloved and holy,
let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise.**
- 3 **Beloved, God's chosen, put on as a garment
compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.
Above all, before all, let love be your raiment
that binds into one every dissonant part.**

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021) © 1994 Susan Palo Cherwien, administered by Augsburg Fortress Annual License SAS000345

↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

- Ⓟ The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless,
strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.
- ☞ **Amen.**

↑ SENDING HYMN: *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW Hymn 359

- 1 **Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.**
- 2 **With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.**
- 3 **Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined, in him we are made one. ►**

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4 **Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.**

5 **Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.**

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. century; translated by Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, altered
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↑ SENDING

☐ Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

📣 **Thanks be to God!**

↑ POSTLUDE

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Altar Guild: Carol Jensen-Linton

Tech crew: David Kilgore, Dakota Atkins (8:30); Carol Jenson Linton and Joni Siepert (11:00)

Ushers: Mark Barbour, Buddy Troy (8:30); Pat Oliver and Mike Oliver (11:00)

*Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God by the O'Clair Family,
in celebration of Jonah's 14th birthday on February 16th.*

