

POSSIBILITY:
FORGIVING YOURSELF
AND OTHERS



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
February 26, 2023

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The First Sunday in Lent ☩ February 26, 2023 ☩ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.
Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor
Cheryl Dietmeyer, Musician Leader James C. Hagberg, Choir Conductor

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

PRELUDE

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 Fritz

↑ **CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

- ☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace. ☑ **Amen.**
- ☐ Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.
Holy God,
- ☑ **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**
- ☐ Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ☩ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power. ☑ **Amen.**

↑ **EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

↑ **GATHERING HYMN: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling***

ELW Hymn 608

- 1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.**

Refrain: "Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)

You who are weary, come home."

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

- 2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain***

- 3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *Refrain***

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909 Text is in Public Domain.

↑ **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 (ELW Hymn 602)*

- 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; translated by Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008

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↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- ☞ Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

READING: Ephesians 4:31-32 and Matthew 11:28-30

- ☞ Today's reading is from Paul's letter to the Ephesian Christians, the fourth chapter, and Matthew's Gospel, the eleventh chapter.

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice.
³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.**

[**J**esus said,] "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- ☞ 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.

↑ **GOSPEL: John 8:2-11**

- ☞ The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighth chapter.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early in the morning [Jesus] came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, ⁴they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said,

- ☞ **"Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."**

Ⓟ The Gospel of the Lord.

Ⓒ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

ELW Hymn 605

- 1 “Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others’ debts to us; how great our debt to you!
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, altered

Text © Oxford University Press 1969

↑ 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, “We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast
love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.”*

Please respond, “Amen.”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

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



OFFERING MUSIC: *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me (11:00)*

Sanctuary Choir

- 1 *I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*
- 2 *In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*
- 3 *When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

Text: African American spiritual

Text is in Public Domain.

↑ 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. —*ELW page 108*

↑ 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

*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 either the chalice of wine or the 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."*

↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

☐ God, the giver of love, ✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

☑ **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.**

**3 Savior, when your love shall call us from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.**

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↑ SENDING

📖 Go in peace. Serve in love. 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 Jensen-Linton, Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn (11:00)

Ushers: Mark Barbour and Buddy Troy (8:30);

Kathie Manes and Ben McCumber (11:00)

During Lent no flowers grace the altar in the Sanctuary.

Upcoming weeks in the **POSSIBILITY Series:**

March 5: Breaking Outside Your Bubble; Guest Speakers: Juliet and Mark Cutler

March 12: Connecting with Creation; Guest Speaker: Bill Grabill

March 19: Hearing Different Perspectives

March 26: Trusting God To Use You

If you would like to know more about participating in a small-group discussion of these topics for 30 minutes a week during the season (in person or via Zoom), contact Barbara Anderson at connect@coslutheran.org.

HOLY WEEK

April 2: Palm Sunday

April 9: Easter

