

POSSIBILITY:  
CONNECTING  
WITH CREATION



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia  
March 12, 2023  
11:00AM

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Peachtree City, Georgia

The Third Sunday in Lent ☩ March 12, 2023 ☩ 11:00 A.M.  
Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor  
David Beecher, Guest Music Leader

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

**PRELUDE:** *My Lord, What a Morning!*

*Joyful Noise/Peace Ringers*

*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:** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

*ELW Hymn 836*

- 1 **Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 2 **All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**
- 3 **Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
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!**

## ↑ 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

☞ Merciful God, King of Creation and the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well of possibilities that flows through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

## READING: Ezekiel 34:17-22

—*The Message*

📖 Today's reading is from Ezekiel, the thirty-fourth chapter.

““ **A**nd as for you, my dear flock, I'm stepping in and judging between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. Aren't you satisfied to feed in good pasture without taking over the whole place? Can't you be satisfied to drink from the clear stream without muddying the water with your feet? Why do the rest of my sheep have to make do with grass that's trampled down and water that's been muddied?

““Therefore, God, the Master, says: I myself am stepping in and making things right between the plump sheep and the skinny sheep. Because you forced your way with shoulder and rump and butted at all the weaker animals with your horns till you scattered them all over the hills, I'll come in and save my dear flock, no longer let them be pushed around. I'll step in and set things right between one sheep and another.

📖 Word of God, Word of life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## ↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *This Is My Father's World*

*ELW Hymn 824*

1 **This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.**

2 **This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere.**

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

Text is in Public Domain.

Ⓟ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a *single* cubit to your life’s span? And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these.”

Ⓟ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Bill Grabill

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Touch the Earth Lightly*

*ELW Hymn 739*

**1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**2 We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster clouds of disaster—God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

**3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses, and air that is sweet,  
health in God’s garden, hope in God’s children, regeneration that peace will complete.**

**4 God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently, and making us one.**

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-2020 Text © 1992 Hope Publishing Company OneLicense #A701929

**THE BAPTISMS OF ZOE MARIE TURK AND JACK REED TURK** *Complete Text: ELW page 227*

## PRESENTATION

Ⓟ People of God, do you promise to support Jack and Zoe in their new life in Christ?

☩ **We do.**

## ↑ PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED

Ⓟ I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Ⓟ Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**RESPONSE: I renounce them.**

Ⓟ Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**RESPONSE: I renounce them.**

Ⓟ Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**RESPONSE: I renounce them.**

Ⓟ Do you believe in God the Father?

☩ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Ⓟ Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.** ▶

**P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C** **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.**

### **BAPTISM of Zoe Marie Turk**

**P** **Zoe Marie Turk**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **C** **Amen.**

### **BAPTISM of Jack Reed Turk**

**P** **Jack Reed Turk**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **C** **Amen.**

### **SIGNING THE CROSS and GIVING OF THE LIGHT**

**P** **Jack Reed**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**C/P** Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**P** **Zoe Marie**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**C/P** Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **WELCOME**

**P** **Let us welcome JACK and ZOE**

**C** We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

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### **INVITATION TO 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:** *God So Loved the World*

*Sanctuary Choir*

### **↑ 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. 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."*

**COMMUNION MUSIC:** *It Is Well with My Soul [ELW Hymn 785]* David Byers, euphonium and soloist

### ↑ 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 of possibilities. ☞ **Amen.**

### ↑ SENDING HYMN: *Let All Things Now Living*

*ELW Hymn 881*

- 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.**
- 2 God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving: "To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

## ↑ SENDING

**P** Go in peace. Serve in love. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

**G** **Thanks be to God!**

## ↑ POSTLUDE

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*Altar Guild: Linda Barbour*

*Tech crew: David Kilgore, Dakota Atkins (8:30); Brad McCumber, Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn (11:00)*

*Ushers: John Musil and Bob Spruck (8:30); Tom Conrad and Ben McCumber (11:00)*

*During Lent no flowers grace the altar in the Sanctuary.*

Upcoming weeks in the **POSSIBILITY Series**:

March 19: Hearing Different Perspectives

March 26: Trusting God To Use You



**HOLY WEEK:** April 2: Palm Sunday;

April 6: Maundy Thursday;

April 7: Good Friday Tenebrae;

April 8: Eggstravaganza and Easter Vigil at Palmetto Road;

April 9: Easter