

POSSIBILITY:  
HEARING  
DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia  
March 19, 2023  
8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fourth Sunday in Lent ☩ March 19, 2023 ☩ 8:30 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor   Miriam Beecher, Pastor   Robbi Martin, Guest Preacher  
Caleb Ramirez, Guest Music Leader   James C. Hagberg, Choir Director

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

**PRELUDE**

*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 Fritz

↑ **CONFESSON 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: All Are Welcome**

*ELW Hymn 641*

- 1      **Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

*Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

- 3      **Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain**
- 4      **Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain      ►**

5 **Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

3

*Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Text: Marty Haugen, born in 1950

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### ↑ 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

- ☞ Let us pray. Holy God, you send your Son to provide light in our darkness. When we set direction, he is our way. When we search for values, he is our truth. Amid a world of struggle and death, he is our life. Give us confidence, that following Jesus we would enjoy the possibilities of listening to all the people to which Jesus himself listens. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☞ **Amen.**

### READINGS

- ☞ Today's readings are from several New Testament books and Proverbs. Please join me in reading them.
- ☞ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. —*Philippians 2:4*
- ☞ **Let anyone with ears listen.** —*Matthew 11:15*
- ☞ Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. —*Philippians 2:3-4*
- ☞ **One who gives an answer before he hears, it is foolishness and shame to him.** —*Proverbs 18:13 (NASB)*
- ☞ Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. <sup>3</sup>Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? —*Matthew 7:1-3*
- ☞ <sup>19</sup>**You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, <sup>20</sup>for human anger does not produce God's righteousness.**  
<sup>21</sup>**... welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.** —*James 1:19-21*
- ☞ Word of God, Word of life. ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

*ELW Hymn 656*

- 1**     **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**
- 2**     **Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**
- 3**     **We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, altered     Text is in Public Domain.

↑ **GOSPEL: John 14:1-7**

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

☩     **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[**J**esus said;] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.”  
<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”  
<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Ⓟ     The Gospel of the Lord.

☩     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Robbi Martin

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *You Are the Way*

*ELW Hymn 758*

- 1**     **You are the way; to you alone from sin and death we flee;  
all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.**
- 2**     **You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart;  
you only can inform the mind and purify the heart.**
- 3**     **You are the life; the rending tomb proclaims your conqu’ring arm;  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.**
- 4**     **You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.**

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, altered     Text is in Public Domain.

↑ **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.**



**COMMUNION HYMN: *To Be Your Presence****ELW Hymn 546*

- 1 To be your presence is our mission here, to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,  
to be your heart of mercy ever near. We will love as you do, Lord.**
- 2 To be your presence is our mission bold, to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,  
to be your hands of justice, right uphold. We will love as you do, Lord.**
- 3 To be your presence is our mission blest, to speak for all the broken and oppressed,  
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed. We will love as you do, Lord.**
- 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your people is our call and choice,  
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice. We will love as you do, Lord.**

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, born in 1939

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**† 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: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy****ELW Hymn 588*

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.**
- 2 There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.**
- 3 For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.**

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, altered

Text is in Public Domain.

**† 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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*New American Standard Bible®*, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved.*Altar Guild: Jan Christopher**Tech crew: David Kilgore, Dakota Atkins (8:30)**Carol Jensen-Linton, Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn (11:00)**Ushers: Stephen Gundersen and Buddy Troy (8:30); Kathie Manes and Paul Talbott (11:00)**During Lent no flowers grace the altar in the Sanctuary.*Next week in the **POSSIBILITY Series**: Trusting God To Use You