

POSSIBILITY:
TRUSTING GOD
TO USE YOU



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
March 26, 2023
8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fifth Sunday in Lent ☩ March 26, 2023 ☩ 8:30 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor

Caleb Ramirez, Guest Music Leader James C. Hagberg, Interim Choir Director

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

PRELUDES: *The Dancing Sun; We Shall Overcome (11:00)*

Shepherd's Flock Ringers

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

↑ **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:** *God Is Here! with Lord, You Give the Great Commission* ELW Hymns 526/579

- 1 **God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**
- 1 **Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:**

Refrain: With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

- 2 **Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community: Refrain**

↑ 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

Translation © 1970 Concordia Publishing House

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↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Let us pray. Holy God, you send your Son to provide light in our darkness. Guide us to trust you to use our gifts to bring your light to all around us. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☛ **Amen.**

READINGS: Genesis 1:2-3; Isaiah 58:8,10; 1 John 3:1-2; Ephesians 5:8-9

☞ Today's readings are from Genesis, Isaiah, John's first letter, and Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. —*Genesis 1:2-3 ESV*

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

¹⁰If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. —*Isaiah 58:8,10 NRSV*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are.

²Beloved, we are God's children now! —*1 John 3:1-2 NRSV*

In the past you were full of darkness, but now you are full of light in the Lord. So live like children who belong to the light. ⁹Light brings every kind of goodness, right living, and truth.

—*Ephesians 5:8-9 NCV*

☞ Word of God, Word of life.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**



↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *There Are Many Ways of Sharing*

Tune: HOLY MANNA

- 1 **There are many ways of sharing, but God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring; it's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing, may we hear you when you call.
Keep us serving, keep us growing, for the common good of all.**
- 2 **We've been baptized in the waters! We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters, you give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation; Give each one a servant's heart.**
- 3 **All are blest by gifts you give us; some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us as we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions; give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision as we serve your church and world.**

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

We have purchased her book, *Songs of Love*, © 2009 Discipleship Resources, and so we have permission to use her hymn.

↑ **GOSPEL:** John 9:12; Matthew 5:14-16

Ⓟ The Holy Gospel according to John, the ninth chapter, and Matthew, the fifth chapter.

☪ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Later, Jesus talked to the people again, saying, "I am the light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness but will have the light that gives life." —*John 9:12 NCV*

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” —*Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV*

Ⓟ The Gospel of the Lord.

☪ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

ANTHEM: *Who Built the Ark? (11:00)*

Shepherd's Flock Singers (M&M)

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *God's Work, Our Hands*

[All Creation Sings, Hymn 1000]

- 1 **God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 2 **God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 3 **God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 4 **God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.**

† 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 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: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (8:30)*

ELW Hymn 712

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart; consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.**
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.**
- 4 Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go, to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give, that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press

Wondrous Love (11:00)

Sanctuary Choir

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul? What wondrous love is this, O my soul, That caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross? What wondrous love is this, O my soul!*
- 2 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul? What wondrous love is this, O my soul, That Christ should lay aside his crown for my soul? What wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

Text: American folk hymn, adapted by Paul J. Christiansen (1914-1997)

↑ 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:

C **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

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

C **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 in the Sanctuary or 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 HYMN: *Take My Life That I May Be Consecrated*

- 1 **Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 **Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 **Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**
- 4 **Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**
- 5 **Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6 **Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, altered Text is in Public Domain.

↑ 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: *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

ELW Hymn 538

**The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth a better place to live. Repeat**

**The angels are not sent into our world of pain
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.**

Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today. Repeat

Text: Anonymous, Central America; translated by Gerhard M. Cartford, 1923-2016 English Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress AF License SAS000345

↑ SENDING

- ☞** Go in peace. Serve in love. Invite all to join in connecting to possibilities of Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- ☞** **Thanks be to God!**

↑ POSTLUDE

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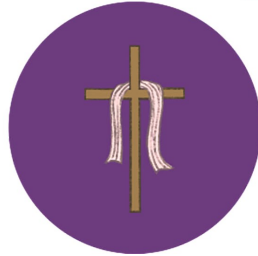
Altar Guild: Linda Barbour

Tech crew: David Kilgore, Dakota Atkins (8:30); Joni Siepert and Brad Milburn (11:00)

Ushers: Mark Barbour and Bob Spruck (8:30); Mike and Pat Oliver (11:00)

During Lent no flowers grace the altar in the Sanctuary.

Worship Schedule for **Holy Week**



Sunday, April 2

8:30 "The Cry of the Whole Congregation," a dramatic re-telling of the Passion Story

9:45 and 11:00 "The Cry of the Whole Congregation," with special music led by our contemporary worship band

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 6:30 p.m.

Worship with Communion, remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples

Good Friday, April 7, 8:00 p.m.

Tenebrae Service with special music, marking Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death

Holy Saturday, April 8

Bunny Hike Egg-stravaganza at Palmetto Road, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil service at Palmetto Road Worship Center, 5:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9

Festival Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. featuring Sanctuary Choir, Christ Our Shepherd Brass, and Handbells

Celebration Worship at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall