

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
YOUTH SUNDAY



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
July 16, 2023
8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

7th Sunday after Pentecost ☩ July 16, 2023 ☩ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

☐ = 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

↑ EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

↑ GATHERING HYMN: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

ELW Hymn 533

- 1 **Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!**
- 3 **Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.**
- 5 **Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.**

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Text in the 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.**

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

↑ READING: Isaiah 55:10-13 *from The Message*

☒ The Old Testament reading is from the 55th chapter of Isaiah.

“I don’t think the way you think.

The way you work isn’t the way I work.”

GOD’s Decree.

“For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work,
and the way I think is beyond the way you think.

Just as rain and snow descend from the skies
and don’t go back until they’ve watered the earth,
Doing their work of making things grow and blossom,
producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry,
So will the words that come out of my mouth
not come back empty-handed.

They’ll do the work I sent them to do,
they’ll complete the assignment I gave them.

“So you’ll go out in joy,
you’ll be led into a whole and complete life.

The mountains and hills will lead the parade,
bursting with song.

All the trees of the forest will join the procession,
exuberant with applause.

No more thistles, but giant sequoias,
no more thornbushes, but stately pines—

Monuments to me, to GOD,
living and lasting evidence of GOD.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

ELW Hymn 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil. (*sing 2 times*)

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

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↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 from The Message**

📖 The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter

🙏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

“What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

“Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that

person's heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

“The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

“The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

“The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”

Ⓟ The Gospel of the Lord.

Ⓢ Praise to you, O Christ.

11:00-Children go to Children's Chapel

SERMON

⤴ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *O God, Whose Word Well-Planted*

ACS Hymn 975

- 1 **O God, whose word well-planted yields fruit a hundredfold,
we praise your graces granted to those who sowed of old,
who by their witness scattered good seed upon the soil
where others, reaping, gathered the harvest of their toil.**
- 2 **O God of seed and harvest, of sun and soil and rain,
attend the word we sow, lest its planting be in vain.
Send showers of your Spirit, bright sunshine of your grace,
that multitudes who hear it your gospel may embrace.**
- 3 **O God, your final harvest of hist'ry's ancient field
will test with truth the proudest that human work can yield.
Oppression's blight will vanish, fair freedom's fruits increase;
and love and joy will flourish to clothe the earth with peace.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

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⤴ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

- Ⓟ Let us sing our baptismal faith together.
- Ⓢ **I believe, I do believe, truly I believe it . . .
I believe in God, the almighty Lord Creator . . .
I believe in Jesus, the Savior of the people . . .
And I do believe in the power of the Spirit . . .
I believe, I do believe, truly I believe it . . .**

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, 1937-2017

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God.," please respond, "Your mercy is great."

The prayers are ended with these words, "Into your hands, ... in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior." Please respond, "Amen."

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/>



COMMUNION HYMN: *For the Fruit of All Creation**ELW Hymn 679*

**1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

☞ The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **☩ Amen.**

↑ SENDING HYMN: *On What Has Now Been Sown**ELW Hymn 550*

**1 On what has now been sown your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise, and yours alone shall be the praise!**

**2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive and to your word a blessing give.**

**3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met before you here,
may meet together thus when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt. Text in the Public Domain

↑ SENDING

☞ Go in peace. Share the harvest. Announce to all the possibilities of Jesus' joy and life.
☩ Thanks be to God.

↑ POSTLUDE

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Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, administered by Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.*Altar Guild: Carol Jensen-Linton**Readers: (8:30); (11:00)**Tech crew: Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins (8:30)**Natalie Irvin, Carol Jensen-Linton, Brad Milburn, Joni Siepert (11:00)**Ushers: Stephen Gunderson, Bob Spruck (8:30); Mike Oliver, Paul Talbott (11:00)**Sanctuary flowers given by Joni Siepert in honor of Jackie's birthday.*