

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
July 23, 2023
8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

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8th Sunday after Pentecost ☩ July 23, 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 11:00-Reese Martin, soloist

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:** *Oh, Worship the King*

ELW Hymn 842

- 1 **Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above. Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**
- 3 **Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**
- 5 **O measureless might, ineffable love, while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays, with true adoration shall sing to your praise.**

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, 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. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
☑ **Amen.**

↑ **READING: Isaiah 44:6-8**

- ☒ The Old Testament reading is from the 44th chapter of Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.



Who has announced from of old the things to come?
 Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
 have I not told you from of old and declared it?
 You are my witnesses!
 Is there any god besides me?
 There is no other rock; I know not one.

- ℣ Word of God, Word of Life.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *O Word of God Incarnate*

ELW Hymn 514

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
 O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
 we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
 a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Text in the public domain.

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

- ℣ The Holy Gospel according to Mathhew, the 13th chapter.
- ☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

- ℣ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☩ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field*

ACS Hymn 952

1 The reign of God, like farmer's field, bears weeds along with wheat;
the good and bad are intertwined till harvest is complete.

3 Though hidden now, the reign of God may, yet unnoticed, grow;
from deep within it rises up, like yeast in swelling dough.

5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the reign of God is near.
Ablaze among us, kindling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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↑ **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 "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

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 11:00-My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Reese Martin, Nancy Shepack, duet

↑ **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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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,
hosanna in the highest
—ELW Hymn #193

↑ 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: *11:00-Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Reese Martin, Nancy Shepack, duet

COMMUNION HYMN: *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.**
- 3 **This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!**

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901 Text in the public domain.

↑ 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:** *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.**

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, 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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Altar Guild: Carol Jensen-Linton, Jennifer Archer

Prayer Readers: Jonas Barbour (8:30); Dannee Barkow (11:00)

Tech crew: Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins (8:30)

Natalie Irvin, Joni Siefert, Linda Volckmann (11:00)

Ushers: Buddy Troy and Bob Spruck (8:30); Rich DeBreuil and Tom Conrad (11:00)

Sanctuary flowers given by the O'Clair Family in honor of Audra's 19th birthday on July 27th.