

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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

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Peachtree City, Georgia

9th Sunday after Pentecost ☩ July 30, 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 Miriam

↑ EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

↑ GATHERING HYMN: *Gather Us In*

ELW Hymn 532

- 1 **Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.**
- 2 **We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**
- 4 **Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 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.**

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
☑ **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136 from the *Complete Jewish Bible*
We read the portions of Psalm 119 responsively

- L** Your instruction is a wonder; this is why I follow it.
- C** **Your words are a doorway that lets in light,
giving understanding to the thoughtless.**
- L** My mouth is wide open, as I pant
with longing for your teaching.
- C** **Turn to me, and show me your favor;
as you do with those who love your name.**
- L** Guide my footsteps by your word; don't let any kind of sin rule me.
- C** **Save me from human oppression, from those who do harm.**
- L** Rivers of tears flow down from my eyes,
because people do not keep and guard your teachings.
- C** **Make your face shine on me and teach me.**

READING:

- L** The New Testament reading is from Romans, the eighth chapter.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- L** Word of God, Word of Life. **C** **Thanks be to God**

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

ELW Hymn 620

1 **How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away all fear.**

3 **Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;
my never-failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt. Text in the public domain.

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter. **C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ▶

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord. ☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

11:00-Children go to Children’s Chapel

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

⬆ HYMN OF THE DAY: *The Reign of God Like Farmer’s Field*

ACS Hymn 952

- 2 **The reign of God is like a pearl on barren land concealed.
If once you find that precious pearl, go out and buy that field.**
- 3 **Though hidden now, the reign of God may, yet unnoticed, grow;
from deep within it rises up, like yeast in swelling dough.**
- 4 **Like mustard tree, the reign of God from tiny seed will spread,
till birds of ev'ry feather come to nest, and there be fed.**
- 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

- ☐ 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.**

RECOGNITION OF SUMMER INTERNS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes “God, in your mercy,” please respond, “hear our prayer.”

The prayers are ended with these words, “Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.” Please respond, “Amen.”

**1 All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**3 All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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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: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

ELW Hymn 705

**1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**3 Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969 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 Reader: Marty Hagberg (8:30 & 11:00)

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

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

Ushers: Cindy and Stephen Gunderson (8:30); Pat and Mike Oliver (11:00)

Sanctuary flowers given by Carol Jensen-Linton in honor of Rowan Linton's 4th birthday.