

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost ☩ August 13, 2023 ☩ 9:45 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor
Luanne Harms, Director of Contemporary Worship
Second Sunday Musicians, Barbara Anderson, Leader

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Miriam

⬆ **GATHERING SONG:** *Good Morning, Lord*

Tune: Eight Days a Week

**Hey, dear Lord, good morning. It's good to be with you.
We're here to sing your praises, give thanks for what you do.
In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,
In the name of the Spirit, the Three in One.**

**Bless our time together, send your Spirit near
Help us with our questions, our wrestlings and our fears.
Creating Father, redeeming Son,
guiding Spirit, Almighty One.**

Blessed be your name, forever. Open now our hearts, that you may touch and lead our lives.

**Oh, we love you, Jesus, that's why we're in this place:
to grow within your presence, until it's face to face.
In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,
In the name of the Spirit, the Three in One,
the Three in One, the Three in One.**

Text: Fritz Wiese, b. 1967

Tune: John Lennon and Paul McCartney

⬆ **CONFESSIONAL LITANY**

Tune: Help

- ☐ Help! ☑ We need somebody.
☐ Help! ☑ Not just anybody
☐ Help! ☑ You know we need you, Lord. Help!
- ☐ When we were younger, so much younger than today, (either in age or maturity or both),
We never thought we needed anybody's help.
We neglected or even turned a cold shoulder, O Lord, upon your promises and plans for us.
- ☑ **We're not trying to beat ourselves up, Lord, and we know that's not your desire.
But we realize—actually we're only able to admit this to a limited extent—
That we're plagued by a force some call "sin."
We find ourselves acting in ways of which we're ashamed.
In some cases we're so insensitive we don't even realize it.
And we know if we say otherwise, we're kidding ourselves.**
- ☐ Help! ☑ **Renew us, Lord.**
☐ Help! ☑ **We need our lives restored.**
☐ Help! ☑ **We sing with one accord. Help!**
- ☐ You want help? Here's some great news! God so loved the world that God gave the very best,
His only Son, Jesus, who not only lived among us to help show us the way, but died on the cross
for us and for our salvation (or "back-stage pass" to God's kingdom, party, and banquet). ▶

- ☞** Yes, through Jesus comes true help. Through his cross and resurrection, our sins are forgiven and the slate is wiped clean. We are made new creations, holy people, stewards of God’s mysteries, freed to love and live with new futures.
Thanks be to God who gives us the victory!

↑ **KYRIE SONG:** *Show Your Grace*

Tune: You’ve Got to Hide Your Love Away

- 1** Here we stand with hearts in hand, beseeching you in prayer:
Those lonely and meek, for troubled who seek, Father, show them care.
- 2** For peace in our time, meaning and rhyme in our daily lives,
That kindness be shown in our homes by children, husbands, and wives.

Refrain: Lord, shower your grace upon our way. Lord, we need your strength to live today.

- 3** From hostilities that we may be freed, let healing start to stir.
Melt cold hearts, provide fresh starts, that Good News will be heard.
- 4** Those lost in a maze, for those who give praise, may mercy be their gift.
That justice may reign, transforming the pain; our hearts to you we lift. *Refrain*

Text: Fritz Wiese, b. 1967

Tune: John Lennon and Paul McCartney

↑ **GREETING**

- ℒ** 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**

- ℒ** O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☞** Amen.

LESSON: Isaiah 43:16, 1-2 and 41:13

- ℒ** The Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the forty-third and forty-first chapters.

This is what the Eternal One says, the One who does the impossible,
the One who makes a path through the sea,
a smooth road through tumultuous waters:

... See, you have nothing to fear. I, who made you, will take you back. I have chosen you, named you as My own. ²When you face stormy seas I will be there with you with endurance and calm; you will not be engulfed in raging rivers.

^{41:13}After all, it is I, the Eternal One your God, who has hold of your right hand, who whispers in your ear, ‘Don’t be afraid. I will help you.’”

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

PSALMODY: Psalm 69:1-3, 14-15; and Psalm 18:16

We read the verses responsively

- ℒ** *Reach down for me, True God; deliver me.*
The waters have risen to my neck; *I am going down!*
- ☞** ²My feet are swallowed in this murky bog;
I am sinking—there is no sturdy ground. ▶

- L** I am in the deep; the floods are crashing in!
C ³ **I am weary ...but I still look for my God.**
L ¹⁴ Pluck me from this murky bog; don't let it pull me down! Pull me from this rising water.
¹⁵ Don't let the flood take me under or let me be swallowed into the deep
C ¹⁶ **He reached down *His hand* from above me; He held me.**
He lifted me from the raging waters.

↑ **GOSPEL SONG:** *Words of Life*

Tune: Ob-la-di, Ob-la-da

- 1** **Jesus was with his disciples when they asked, "Lord, where shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life."
 For happiness and joy these words we need to know.**

*Chorus: Allelu, Allelu, Alleluia! Blessed are those who hear God's Word. Repeat
 Final time: If you want true life, then act upon God's Word.*

- 2** **When it seems you have all the answers, or when you feel you haven't got a clue,
 turn to what will prove a steady dancer.
 The Bible shows God's love and grace always come through. *Chorus***

Text: Fritz Wiese, b. 1967 Tune: John Lennon and Paul McCartney

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33**

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

Directly after this Jesus insisted on his disciples' getting aboard their boat and going on ahead to the other side, while he himself sent the crowds home. And when he had sent them away he went up the hill-side quite alone, to pray.

When it grew late he was there by himself while the boat was by now a long way from the shore at the mercy of the waves, for the wind was dead against them.

In the small hours Jesus went out to them, walking on the water of the lake.

When the disciples caught sight of him walking on the water they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and screamed with fear.

But at once Jesus spoke to them. "It's all right! It's I myself, don't be afraid!"

²⁸ "Lord, if it's really you," said Peter, "tell me to come to you on the water."

^{29a} "Come on, then," replied Jesus.

^{29b-33} Peter stepped down from the boat and did walk on the water, making for Jesus. But when he saw the fury of the wind he panicked and began to sink, calling out, "Lord save me!"

At once Jesus reached out his hand and caught him, saying, "You little-faith! What made you lose your nerve like that?"

Then, when they were both aboard the boat, the wind dropped. The whole crew came and knelt down before Jesus, crying, "You are indeed the Son of God!"

- P** The Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

~Children go to Children's Chapel~

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Walking in God's Love*

Tune: Can't Buy Me Love

- 1.** **Some folks trust in riches, fame, or fancy cars.
 Others let society determine who they are.
 But I have heard one better answer that gives more joy by far.
 Walking in God's love, Jesus died for me.
 Walking in God's love, in baptism I'm free! ▶**

4
2. The Lord has blessed me richly with my family and my friends.
He walks beside me daily and when the story ends.
So when it comes to living boldly, just one thing depends:
Walking in God's love, they call it justified,
Walking in God's love, it gives me hope and pride.

3. Lord, your word is golden. It gives my heart delight.
Your grace supports my mission, gives meaning to my plight.
Now grant me strength to follow Jesus; how pleasing in your sight!
Walking in God's love, love . . .
Walking in God's love.

Text: Fritz Wiese, b. 1967 Tune: John Lennon and Paul McCartney

↑ 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God," please respond, "your mercy is great."
When the prayers conclude, please respond, "Amen."*

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 SONG: *All My Living*

1 How can I measure the bounteous treasure, the gifts God's entrusted to me,
To use and enjoy, but to also employ that God's will around me is done?
All my living, let it be for you. That's why I'm giving these gifts now to you.

2 For the stars, woods, and streams, possibilities and dreams, I thank you for my daily bread.
Now through all of my friendships and words that come from my lips,
I'll act so that others are fed.
All my living, let it be for you. That's why I'm giving these gifts now to you.
These gifts now to you, these gifts now to you.

Text: Fritz Wiese, b. 1967 Tune: John Lennon and Paul McCartney

↑ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Ⓟ The Lord be with you.	☑ And also with you.
Ⓟ Lift up your hearts.	☑ We lift them to the Lord.
Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	☑ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

↑ 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**
**Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SHARING COMMUNION AT CHURCH

or at home with your household

Please approach the altar as directed by an usher. You will be offered a wafer, and you may dip it into the chalice containing wine or white grape juice. Or, you may choose a prepackaged kit. (including Gluten-free versions)

COMMUNION SONG: *Remember Me*

Tune: Let It Be

- 1. On the night our Savior was betrayed, he took bread and then he prayed.
"This is now my body, take and eat."
After supper he took the cup, giving thanks he held up,
"This wine is now my blood, take and drink."**

*Chorus: "Remember me," Jesus said, "in the wine, through the bread.
This meal of love I give you. Remember me."*

- 2. This meal is our new covenant, Christ's summary of what he meant.
United in his body, you and me.
Black or white, young or old, if your heart is open or still cold,
forgiveness now is given, for you and me. *Chorus***
- 3. So as we celebrate Christ's meal we proclaim the cross that heals.
Our sins upon his shoulders at Calvary.
For the bonds of death God devastates, Christ's resurrection liberates.
To the banquet now he calls us, you and me. *Chorus***

Text: Fritz Wiese, b. 1967 Tune: John Lennon and Paul McCartney

↑ 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: *Go Now in Peace*

Tune: Yellow Submarine

**Now go in peace into the world. Share with others what we've heard:
that Jesus died, but now he lives. Life in his kingdom to you he gives. *Chorus***

*Chorus: Go now in peace to serve the Lord as friends wherever your road bends, until the story ends.
Thank you Lord for this time. Your light of grace we'll try to shine;
give away as we've received, serving others in their need. *Chorus**

Text: Fritz Wiese, b. 1967

Tune: John Lennon and Paul McCartney

DISMISSAL

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

Background on the “God Loves You--Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!” Liturgy

Why have a liturgy or worship format set to all “sixties” music? Why not?

In recent years, Christians have been exploring how the Church best reaches our changing world with the fantastic news of God’s radical love for us through Jesus.

In the process, we try to discern between style and substance.

What is the basic, never-changing substance of the gospel that needs to shine in worship?

God’s Word & Meal. These elements focus the faith in worship.

Specifically, this author would suggest the forms of a specifically Christian gathering (what we’re doing in worship is distinctive from work, potlucks, euchre, or studying);

God’s Word through lessons and exposition of some sort; offering ourselves through praise, prayers, possessions, and presence;

and celebrating the Eucharist (proclaiming the death and resurrection of Jesus through his meal not only is a tremendous faith activity, but the primary way early Christians distinguished themselves from their Jewish brothers and sisters).

Therefore, grounded in substance, we enjoy freedom in worship style.

Music and language, it makes sense, should be indigenous to the gathered people, so the gospel can be heard clearly. English or French, Bach or Beatles.

We need it all to celebrate and proclaim our God’s mighty deeds.

After all, Martin Luther himself paved the way for this kind of thinking when he translated the Bible into German and put Christian lyrics to tavern drinking songs.

Hopefully, the type of music used in this liturgy spans the interests of several generations of Christians.

Plus it’s fun music that’s fairly easy to remember or learn.

Will this liturgy-experiment be helpful to all Christians? By no means.

But I’m glad if you are somebody who felt it helped you participate in that great old story in a fresh yet authentically Christian way.

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Fritz Wiese

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran, Peachtree City, Georgia