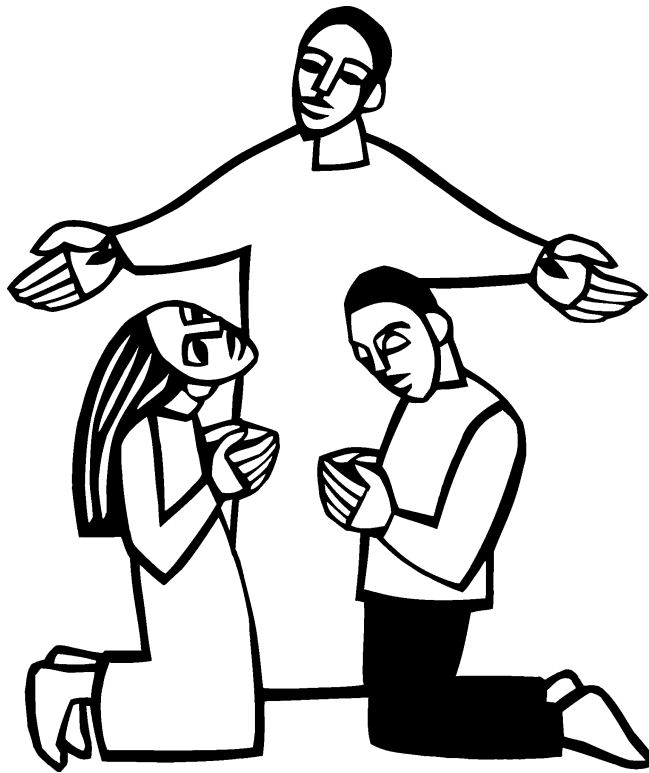


FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
September 10, 2023
8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

P = Pastor **L** = Lector [reader] **C** Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)*
↑ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

Linda Daily, organ

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: *Earth and All Stars!*

ELW Hymn 731

- 1** **Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!**
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Refrain

God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!

- 3** **Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!**
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

- 5** **Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!**
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

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↑ GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C **Amen.**

READINGS: **Jonah 1:17 and Romans 8:26-29**

- L** The readings are from the 1st chapter of Jonah and the 8th chapter of Romans

But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called ▶

according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life. 📖 Thanks be to God

⬆️ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Spirit, Open My Heart*

ACS Hymn 1043

Refrain

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

**2 Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. Refrain**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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⬆️ **GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20**

📖 The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixteenth chapter. 📖 Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about any thing you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

SERMON *Our Best Mistakes—How God Works in Our Failures*

Pastor Fritz

⬆️ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken*

ELW Hymn 603

**1 God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.**

**2 Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.**

**3 You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.**

**4 Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.**

**5 Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!**

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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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 "Merciful God.," please respond, "Receive our prayer."

The prayers are ended with these words, "Remember us according to your steadfast love ... through Jesus Christ." 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/>



OFFERING MUSIC (8:30)

(11:00) *Let Us Pray for Peace, Thomas Keesecker*

*Linda Daily, organ
Sanctuary Choir*

↑ 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

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

- ☒ **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 HYMN: *In the Singing*

ELW Hymn 466

- 1 In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking, in your presence at this table,**

Refrain

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

- 2 In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people, *Refrain***

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

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COMMUNION HYMN: *I Come with Joy*

ELW Hymn 482

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.**
- 2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.**
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.**
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.**
- 5 Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

- ☒ The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
- ☒ **Amen.**

- 1** “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
 Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
 In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
 Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”
- 2** “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Here you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”
- 3** “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
 Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
 Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
 Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

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↑ **SENDING**

- 📖 Go in peace. God is at work in you. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus’ pathway of joy and life.
- 🗣️ **Thanks be to God.**

↑ **POSTLUDE**

Linda Daily, organ

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Altar Guild: Pat Oliver

Lector: Laura Musil (8:30); Dave Beyers (11:00)

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

Brad McCumber, Joni Siepert, Brad Milburn, (11:00)

Ushers: John Musil, Buddy Troy (8:30); Rich DuBreuil, Ben McCumber (11:00)