

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
September 17, 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

↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
✚ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

☐ Steadfast and faithful God,

☑ **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

☐ Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ✚ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always

☑ **And also with you.**

We share a sign of God's peace.

↑ GATHERING HYMN: *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death*

ELW Hymn 452

**1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.**

**2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.**

**3 There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God who made us all.**

**4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.**

**5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.**

↑ 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

- ☐ O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 ☑ **Amen.**

READING: Genesis 50:15-21 *Common English Bible*

- ☐ The Old Testament reading is from Genesis, the 50th chapter.

When Joseph's brothers realized that their father was now dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us, and wants to pay us back seriously for all of the terrible things we did to him?"¹⁶ So they approached Joseph and said, "Your father gave orders before he died, telling us,¹⁷ 'This is what you should say to Joseph. "Please, forgive your brothers' sins and misdeeds, for they did terrible things to you. Now, please forgive the sins of the servants of your father's God.'" Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸ His brothers wept too, fell down in front of him, and said, "We're here as your slaves."

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I God?"²⁰ You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it, in order to save the lives of many people, just as he's doing today.²¹ Now, don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." So he put them at ease and spoke reassuringly to them.

- ☐ Word of God, Word of Life. ☑ **Thanks be to God**

READING: Romans 8:26-29 *The New Testament in Modern English*

- ☐ The New Testament reading is from Romans, the 8th chapter.

The Spirit of God not only maintains this hope within us but helps us in our present limitations. For example, we do not know how to pray, but his Spirit within us is actually praying for us in those agonizing longings which never find words. And God who knows the heart's secrets understands, of course, the Spirit's intention as he prays for those who love God.

- ☐ 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 18:23-32 *Good News translation*

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter. ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants' accounts.²⁴ He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him



millions of dollars. ²⁵ The servant did not have enough to pay his debt, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave, with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt. ²⁶ The servant fell on his knees before the king. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷ The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants who owed him a few dollars. He grabbed him and started choking him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he said. ²⁹ His fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰ But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything. ³² So he called the servant in. ‘You worthless slave!’ he said. ‘I forgave you the whole amount you owed me, just because you asked me to.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

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

Pastor Miriam

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY: *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

ELW Hymn 605

1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

2 How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

3 In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others' debts to us; how great our debt to you!

4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, alt.

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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.

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

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) *Teach Me Your Way, O Lord, Mark Sedio*

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

- C** **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: *Before the Waters Nourished Earth*

ACS Hymn 1049

- 1 **Before the waters nourished earth or night imagined morning,
a Love conceived the universe and reveled in its forming.**
- 2 **This Love remained as time revealed the loss of Eden's glory
and, grieving, holds in memory each tragic human story.**
- 3 **Despair, so deep it bears no name, or sorrows paralyzing
cannot revoke Love's faithful claim to dwell within our dying.**
- 4 **The Love that called creation good all goodness still is bringing.
This Love turns death again to life and silence into singing.**

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

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**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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↑ 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.

↑ SENDING HYMN: *In Thee Is Gladness*

**1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the true redeemer art.
Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest. Who trusts thee surely has built securely
and stands forever: Alleluia!**

**Our hearts are pining to see thy shining, dying or living, to thee are cleaving;
naught can us sever: Alleluia!**

**2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers, not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses; he can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story tell of his glory with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices
in him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness, love him and praise him and still shall raise him
glad hymns forever: Alleluia!**

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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

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Altar Guild: Pat Oliver

Lector: (8:30); Rod Barkow (11:00)

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

Carol Jensen-Linton, Joni Siepert, Brad Milburn, (11:00)

Ushers: Cindy & Stephen Gundersen (8:30); Rich DuBreuil, Tom Conrad, Paul Talbott (11:00)

Altar flowers given in honor of all marriages by Jaycine Lester.