

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
September 24, 2023
8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

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

PRELUDE (8:30) *Reverie, Sandra Eithun*

M&Ms bell and chime choir

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

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

↑ 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: *As Saints of Old*

ELW Hymn 695

1 **As saints of old their firstfruits brought of orchard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield;
so we today firstfruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

2 **A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give;
to make our life an offering to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.**

3 **In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900-1996, alt.

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense #A-701929

↑ 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

☐ Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

READING: Romans 8:26-29

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

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.²⁷ And 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.²⁸ **We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.**²⁹ For 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

Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Used by Permission OneLicense #A-701929

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16—Congregation speaks the Large bold print.**

☒ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter. ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘**Because no one has hired us.**’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘**These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.**’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

☒ 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:** *Lord of All Hopefulness*

ELW Hymn 765

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy: be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Hymn continues on the next page.

4

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace: be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm: be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953

Text © Oxford University Press 1931. Used by permission. OneLicense #A-701929

↑ 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 (8:30) *This is the Day*, L. Peterson
(11:00) *Jubilate Deo*, Dale Wood

M&Ms Choir
Sanctuary Choir

Percussion-Bert Groover, Penny Kahley, Elizabeth Wampler, Sarah Wampler

↑ 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.

☐ 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:

☑ 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 HYMN: *Take My Life, That I May Be*

ELW Hymn 583

Refrain

**Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**1 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain**

**2 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. Refrain**

**3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. Refrain**

**4 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adap.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875-1955

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

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Used by permission OneLicense #A-701929

↑ **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: *Voices Raised to You***

ELW Hymn 845

1 Voices raised to you we offer; tune them, God, for songs of praise.
Hearts and hands we bring in tribute for your gifts through all our days.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to you we sing!

2 All creation joins to praise you; earth and sky your works display.
Art and music, gifts you lend us, we return to you today.
Alleluia! Alleluia! God, creator, source of life!

3 Christ, the song of love incarnate, touching earth with heaven's grace,
for your living, suffering, dying, for your rising, hear our praise!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, redeemer, Lord of life!

4 Spirit, flaming through creation, kindle faith within each heart.
Lift our voices high in chorus; through our hands your love impart.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Spirit, helper, breath of life!

5 How can any praise we offer measure all the thanks we owe?
Take our hearts and hands and voices—gifts of love we can bestow.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Text © 1997 GIA Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense #A-701929

↑ **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**

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000345.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ
in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, administered by Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Altar Guild: Pat Oliver

Lector: Brenda Nuscher(8:30); (11:00)

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

Linda Volckmann, Joni Siepert, Brad McCumber, (11:00)

Ushers: Mark Barbour, Buddy Troy (8:30); Pat & Mike Oliver (11:00)