

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
October 1, 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 (11:00) *Fantasy on HYFRYDOL, Hal Hopson* *Peace Ringers and Joyful Noise Ringers*

*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:** *Lord God, We Praise You*

ELW Hymn 558

**1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is over,
active and watchful, standing here before you;
singing, we offer prayer and meditation; thus we adore you.**

**2 Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions;
banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
bring us to heaven, where your saints united joy without ending.**

**3 All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;
yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding through all creation.**

↑ 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

- ☐ God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 ☑ **Amen.**

READING: Exodus 17:3-7 *New Catholic Bible*

- ☐ The first reading is from Exodus, the 17th chapter.

The people suffered from thirst because there was no water, so they murmured against Moses and said, “Why did you make us leave Egypt to die of thirst along with our children and our animals?”⁴ Moses called upon the help of the LORD saying, “What will I do for this people? Only a little more and they will stone me.”

⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Walk in front of the people and bring some of the elders of Israel with you. Take the staff with which you struck the Nile in your hand and go! ⁶Behold, I will stand before you on the rock at Horeb. You will strike the rock, and water will come out for the people to drink.” Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷They called this place Massah^[b] and Meribah, because the children of Israel had protested and had put the LORD to the test, saying, “Is the LORD in our midst or not?”

- ☐ The Word of the Lord. ☑ **Thanks be to God**

READING: Exodus 17:3-7 *New Catholic Bible*

- ☐ The second reading is from Isaiah, the 48th chapter.

²¹Those whom he led through desert lands never endured thirst. He caused water to flow from the rock for them; he split open the rock and waters streamed forth.

- ☐ The Word of the Lord. ☑ **Thanks be to God**

READING: Romans 8:28 *New Catholic Bible*

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

²⁸We know that God makes all things work together for good for those who love him and who are called according to his purpose.

- ☐ The Word of the Lord. ☑ **Thanks be to God**

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

ELW Hymn 517

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Text in the Public Domain

↑ GOSPEL: John 4:4-15 *New Catholic Bible*

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

Jesus had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸ His disciples had gone into the town to purchase food.

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan woman, for some water to drink?" (Jews do not share anything in common with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "If you recognized the gift of God and who it is that is asking you for something to drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you do not have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself along with his sons and his cattle?"

¹³⁻¹⁴ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty. The water that I will give him will become a spring of water within him welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I may not be thirsty and have to come here to draw water."

☞ 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: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

ELW Hymn 611

**1 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.**

**2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.**

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
Text in the Public Domain

⤴ (8:30) 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.**

(11:00) RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

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) *Fantasy on HYFRYDOL, Hal Hopson*
 (11:00) *The Promise, John Behnke*

Peace Ringers
Joyful Noise Ringers

† 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: *In This Feast of Love*

ACS Hymn 962

1 **In this feast of love, in this feast of love,
 Lord, you share your blood and your body, Jesus, Lamb of God.**

Hymn continues next page

**2 In this bread and wine, in this bread and wine,
you have promised, Lord, to be with us, Lamb of God divine.**

**3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us peace, O Lord;
fill us with the joy of your Spirit, ever-living Word.**

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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COMMUNION HYMN: *Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus*

ELW Hymn 501

**Come with us, O blessed Jesus, with us evermore to be.
And, in leaving now thine altar, let us nevermore leave thee!
Let thy bright celestial chorus never cease the heav'nly strain;
but in us, thy loving children, come with peace, good will to reign.**

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891

Text in Public Domain

↑ **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: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

ELW Hymn 733

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

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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: Susie Lucsko

Lector: Margaret Aldredge (8:30); Kayleigh Pointek (11:00)

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

Carol Jensen-Linton, Brad Milburn, Linda Volckmann (11:00)

Usher: Tor Brunso (8:30); Tom Conrad (11:00)