

# Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

September 17, 2023 9:45 a.m.

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship & Music

Luanne Harms, Contemporary Worship Director

**P**= Pastor **G** = All **L** = Leader

**PRELUDE: HOLD ON**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

**OPENING SONG: TRUST IN GOD**

↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**L** Let us pray.

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.

**G Amen.**

**READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

**L** The Old Testament reading is from Genesis, the 50<sup>th</sup> 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?"<sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph and said, "Your father gave orders before he died, telling us,<sup>17</sup> '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.

<sup>18</sup>His brothers wept too, fell down in front of him, and said, "We're here as your slaves."<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I God?<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup> 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.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**G Thanks be to God.**

**READING: Romans 8:26-29**

**L** 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.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**G Thanks be to God**

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 18:23-32**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**G 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.<sup>24</sup> He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.<sup>25</sup> 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.<sup>26</sup> The servant fell on his knees before the king. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay you everything!' <sup>27</sup>The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup>"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. <sup>29</sup>His fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything. <sup>32</sup>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.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G Praise to you, O Christ.**

↑ SONG OF THE DAY: FORGIVEN

**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."

When the prayers conclude, please respond, "Amen."

**OFFERING**

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

We acknowledge that you may have given  
Online or through the mail. Thank you.



**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.

**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 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

**COMMUNION SONG: PERFECT PEACE**

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING and BENDICTION**

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

**C** Amen.

**SENDING SONG: YOU MAKE ALL THINGS NEW**

**DISMISSAL**

**L** Go in peace. Serve in love.  
Invite all to join in connecting  
to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**