

# NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia  
October 8, 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.*

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

### ↑ CONFESSON 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: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

*ELW Hymn 835*

- 1 **All creatures, worship God most high! Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 2 **Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 3 **Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong, drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4 **All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid the tears:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 6 **O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## ↑ 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 Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
 C **Amen.**

### READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

- L The first reading is from Philippians, the 3rd chapter.

**P**aul writes: <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

- L The Word of the Lord.                      C **Thanks be to God**

## ↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Thy Word Is a Lamp*

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.**

**I will not forget Your love for me, and yet,  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus be my guide And hold me to Your side.  
I will love You to the end**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.**

Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith  
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## ↑ GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.    C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**esus said to the people: <sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ►

<sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ <sup>41</sup>They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth*

*ELW Hymn 727*

**1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, upon a cross they bound you,  
and mocked your saving kingship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you.  
And still our wrongs may fashion now new thorns to pierce that steady brow,  
and robe of sorrow round you.**

**2 O awesome Love, which finds no room in life where sin denies you,  
and, doomed to death, shall bring to doom the pow'r that crucifies you,  
till not a stone is left on stone, and then the nations' pride, o'erthrown,  
will nevermore defy you!**

**3 New advent of the love of Christ, will we again refuse you,  
till in the night of hate and war we perish as we lose you?  
From ancient doubts our minds release to seek the kingdom of your peace,  
by which alone we choose you.**

**4 O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us your new creation;  
our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled; we wait your revelation.  
O Love that triumphs over loss, we bring our hearts before your cross;  
come, finish your salvation.**

Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882-1969, alt.  
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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.



**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.**
- 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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**↑ 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: *Can You Feel the Seasons Turning?***

- 1 Can you feel the seasons turning, winds and waves grown wild and strange?  
Can you feel creation groaning, fearful of the coming change:  
icecaps melting, oceans rising, homes and habitations lost?  
Can you feel the seasons turning? Can you count the bitter cost?**
- 2 Can you hear the creatures crying—lynx and otter, wolf and whale?  
Can you hear the Spirit sighing as her children grieve and fail?  
Nature's poor, the first to suffer pay the price of human greed.  
Can you hear the creatures crying, begging us to stop and heed?**
- 3 Can you feel the seasons turning? Storm clouds gather in the skies.  
All around us signs of warning bid us open frightened eyes.  
Called by God to serve as stewards till earth's garden greens and thrives,  
can we learn in time to listen? Can we turn and change our lives?**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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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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