

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
November 19, 2023
8:30 & 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

↑ EXCHANGING THE PEACE

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always

☑ **And also with you.**

We share a sign of God's peace.

↑ GATHERING HYMN: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

ELW Hymn 244

- 1 **Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**
- 2 **The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**
- 3 **The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**
- 4 **Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

↑ 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.**

↑ HYMN OF PRAISE: *This is the Feast*

ELW pg. 140

Refrain-This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. *to Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. *to Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *to Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *to Refrain*

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

☞ **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Amos 5:21-24

see insert

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

see insert

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Let Justice Flow like Streams*

ELW Hymn 717

**1 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.**

**2 Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.**

**3 So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.**

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

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↑ GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

see insert

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY: *What Is the World Like*

ACS Hymn 1047

**1 What is the world like when God's will is done? Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run. This is how God longs for us when we roam.**

**2 What is the world like when God's will is done? No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none. This is how God works when rivalries end.**

**3 What is the world like when God's will is done? Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun. This is how God readies us for the light.**

**4 These are the stories that Jesus imparts, filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts, this is a new world where God's will is done.**

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

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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 “Hear us, O God,” please respond, “Your mercy is great.”

The prayers are ended with these words, “We offer our spoken prayers ... through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.” 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.



MUSICAL OFFERING (11:00) *Keep Your Lamps, Andre Thomas*
Bert Groover, congas

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, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn: | | |
| C | Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. | | |
| | Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. | | |
| | Hosanna in the highest. | | |
- ELW page 144*

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

↑ 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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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.

- C** **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**
- ELW page 146*

COMMUNION HYMN: *When Peace like a River*

ELW Hymn 785

- 1** **When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

Hymn continues on next page.

4

2 **Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.**

Refrain

**It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

3 **He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain**

4 **Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul. Refrain**

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

Text in the 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: *Soon and Very Soon***

ELW Hymn 439

1 **Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. (repeat 2 more times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.**

2 **No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King. (repeat 2 more times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.**

3 **No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. (repeat 2 more times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.**

4 **Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. (repeat 2 more times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.**

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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, Pat Frye

Lector: (8:30) Susan Earwood

(11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton

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

(11:00) Brad McCumber, Joni Siepert, Brad Milburn

Usher: (8:30) John Musil

(11:00) Paul Talbot

Altar flowers given in honor of Jack & Zoe's 1st birthdays by David & Sara Turk.

THE LESSONS

Sunday, November 19

FIRST READING: Amos 5:21-24

The Old Testament reading is from Amos, the 5th chapter.

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The New Testament reading is from 1st Thessalonians, the 4th chapter.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter. ☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

Moravian Christmas Love Feast

All those wishing to sing in the choir for this year's Moravian Christmas Love Feast, are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. Rehearsals begin at 7:00 and will rehearse the Love Feast music at the beginning of the rehearsals on November 29 and December 6.

