

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

## New Chapters



## NEW CHAPTERS OF VOCATION

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia  
February 18, 2024  
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 Miriam

### ⤴ CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

☐ Holy God,

☑ **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

☐ Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs,

and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.

☑ **Amen.**

↑ **GATHERING HYMN:** *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

*ELW Hymn 326*

1 **Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.**

2 **Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking the road where faith is found.**

3 **Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.  
We wait for land of promise where milk and honey flow,  
but waiting not for places, you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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↑ **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.**

↑ **KYRIE**

*ACS page 31*

**Kyrie eleison, Lord, have mercy. Christe eleison, Christ have mercy.  
Kyrie eleison, Lord, have mercy.**

↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:3-10**

*see insert*

**SECOND READING: Acts 9 excerpts**

*see insert*

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Return to God*

**Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God (*sing 2 times*)**

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↑ **GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15**

*see insert*

**SERMON**

Pastor Miriam

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Guide My Feet*

*ACS Hymn 987*

1 **Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

2 **Hold my hand while I run this race. Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

3 **Stand by me while I run this race. Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

*Hymn continues on next page ►*

4 I'm your child while I run this race. I'm your child while I run this race.  
I'm your child while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.

5 Search my heart while I run this race. Search my heart while I run this race.  
Search my heart while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual  
Text is in the public domain.

## ↑ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

**P** Let us profess 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 "Hear us, O God." please respond, "Your mercy is great."*

*The prayers are ended with these words, "Accompany us on our journey ...through Jesus Christ, our Savior." Please respond, "Amen."*

## ↑ EXCHANGING THE PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always

**C** And also with you.

*We share a sign of God's peace.*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING** (to resource the general core fund) *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)-Lenten Carol, Marc Robinson Sanctuary choir; Chris Johns, cello

## ↑ 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, holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, 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 190

## ↑ 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.*

- ☩ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

—*ELW Hymn 196*

**COMMUNION HYMN: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me***

*ELW Hymn 325*

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text: African American spiritual  
Text is in the public domain.

**↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION**

- ☩** Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage, and ✚ give you peace.
- ☩ Amen.**

**↑ SENDING HYMN: *Here I Am, Lord***

*ELW Hymn 574*

- 1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"**

***Refrain***

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

- 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain***
- 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain***

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

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**↑ SENDING**

- ☩** Go in peace. Share your bread.  
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- ☩ Thanks be to God.**

**↑ POSTLUDE**

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*Altar Guild: Carol Jensen-Linton*

*Lector: (8:30)-Pat Ronco; (11:00)-Ethan Miller*

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

*(11:00)-Joni Siepert, Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn*

*Ushers: (8:30)-Bob Spruck; (11:00)-Paul Talbott*

# THE LESSONS

Sunday, February 18

## FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:3-10 The Voice

📖 The 1st reading is from the Old Testament book of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel.

**Narrator:** it was late at night but before dawn as the lamp of God still burned. Samuel was resting in the house of the Eternal One, where the covenant chest of the True God was located, and he heard a voice.

**GOD, the Eternal One:** <sup>4</sup>Samuel! Samuel!

**Narrator:** Samuel got up and went running to Eli.

**ALL: <sup>5</sup> I heard you calling; here I am!**

**Eli:** I did not call you, my son. Go back and lie down.

**Narrator:** So Samuel went back to bed. <sup>6</sup> But the Eternal called him again.

**GOD:** Samuel!

**Narrator:** Samuel got up again and ran to Eli.

**ALL: I heard you calling; here I am!**

**Eli:** No, I did not call you, my son. Go back and lie down. I need my rest.

**Narrator:** <sup>7</sup> Samuel did not recognize the voice of GOD, for the word of the LORD had not been revealed to Samuel yet. So Samuel went back again to his bed. <sup>8</sup> And then the LORD called him a third time. Running to Eli for a third time, Samuel said,

**ALL: I know you called me; I am here!**

**Eli** (realizing the Lord was calling Samuel): <sup>9</sup> Go back and lie down, my son. If the voice calls you again, I want you to say, “Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.”

**Narrator:** So Samuel went to his bed and listened. <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD came into his presence as before.

**Eternal One:** Samuel! Samuel!

**ALL: Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.**

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God

## SECOND READING: Acts 9 excerpts

📖 The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading is from the New Testament book of Acts.

**Narrator:** Back to Saul—this fuming, raging, hateful man who wanted to kill every last one of the Lord’s disciples: he went to the high priest in Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> for authorization to purge all the synagogues in Damascus of followers of the way of Jesus. His plan was to arrest and chain any of Jesus’ followers—women as well as men. <sup>3</sup> He traveled north toward Damascus with a group of companions.

[THEN, this is what happened next: SUDDENLY a light flashes from the sky around Saul, <sup>4</sup> and he falls to the ground at the sound of a voice.

**The Lord:** Saul, Saul, why are you attacking Me?

**ALL: <sup>5</sup> Lord, who are You?**

**The Lord:** I am Jesus. I am the One you are attacking.

**Narrator:** **These are shocking, unexpected words that will change his life forever.**

<sup>7</sup> His other traveling companions just stand there, paralyzed, speechless because they, too, heard the voice; but there is nobody in sight. <sup>8</sup> Saul rises to his feet, his eyes wide open, but he can’t see a thing. So his companions lead their blind friend by the hand and take him into Damascus.

<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, in Damascus a disciple named Ananias had a vision in which the Lord Jesus spoke to him.

**The Lord:** Ananias.

**Ananias:** Here I am, Lord.

*Reading continues on the back ►*

**The Lord:** <sup>11</sup> Get up and go to Straight Boulevard. Go to the house of Judas, and inquire about a man from Tarsus, Saul by name. He is praying to Me at this very instant. <sup>12</sup> He has had a vision—a vision of a man by your name who will come, lay hands on him, and heal his eyesight.

**Ananias:** <sup>13</sup> Lord, I know whom You're talking about. I've heard rumors about this fellow. He's an evil man and has caused great harm for Your special people in Jerusalem.

**The Lord:** <sup>15</sup> Yes, but you must go! I have chosen him to be My instrument to bring My name far and wide—to outsiders, to kings, and to the people of Israel as well. <sup>16</sup> I have much to show him.

**Narrator:** <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and he laid his hands on Saul and called to him....<sup>18</sup> At that instant, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see<sup>20</sup> Then Saul went into the very synagogues he had intended to purge, proclaiming,

**ALL: Jesus is God's Son!**

**Narrator:** <sup>21</sup> Obviously this amazed everybody, and the buzz spread.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15 The Voice**

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

**Narrator:** <sup>9</sup> It was in those days that Jesus left Nazareth (a village in the region of Galilee) and came down to the Jordan, and John cleansed Him through baptism there in the same way all the others were ritually cleansed. <sup>10</sup> But as Jesus was coming out of the waters, He looked up and saw the sky split open. The Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove, <sup>11</sup> and a voice echoed in the heavens.

**The Lord:** You are My Son, My beloved One, and I am very pleased with You.

**Narrator:** <sup>12</sup> After that the Spirit compelled Him to go into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and there in the desert He stayed for 40 days. He was tested by Satan himself and surrounded by wild animals; but through these trials, heavenly messengers cared for Him and ministered to Him.

<sup>14</sup> After John was arrested by Herod, who ruled the Jewish lands on behalf of Roman interests, Jesus went back into the region of Galilee and began to proclaim the good news of God.

**ALL: <sup>15</sup> It's time! The kingdom of God is near! Seek forgiveness, change your actions, and believe this good news!**

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.