

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

New Chapters



NEW CHAPTERS IN LIFE

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
February 25, 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:** *As the Winter Days Grow Longer*

ACS Hymn 924

- 1 **As the winter days grow longer, drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather, turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime, shine within our world anew!**
- 2 **As the vines burst into blossom, fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness, luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather, seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime, bloom within our hearts again!**
- 3 **As we journey through this season, pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence; guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather, called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime, grant us sabbath joy this day!**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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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. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☞ **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Excerpts from 4 Life Chapters of Joseph in Genesis

see insert

SECOND READING: Psalm 71

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 8:31-37**

see insert

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *O God, You Search Me*

ACS Hymn 1082

- 1 **O God, you search me and you know me. All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me: ever the maker and keeper of my days.**
- 2 **You know my resting and my rising. You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me: in ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.**
- 3 **Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding: God of my present, my past, and future, too.**
- 4 **Although your Spirit is upon me, still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you: even the darkness is radiant in your sight.**

Hymn continues on next page. ►

**5 For you created me and shaped me, gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you: safe in your hands, all creation is made new.**

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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↑ 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)-*Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care, Carl Schalk*

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, 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.

C **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: *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said**ELW Hymn 667*

- 1 **"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be;
forsake the past, and come this day, and humbly follow after me."**
- 2 **Take up your cross; let not its weight pervade your soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up, sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.**
- 3 **Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, nor let your foolish heart rebel;
for you the Lord endured the cross to save your soul from death and hell.**
- 4 **Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
for those who humbly bear the cross one day will wear the glorious crown.**

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt.
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: *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus**ELW Hymn 802*

- 1 **Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.**
- 2 **Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy:
all discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.**
- 3 **Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,
he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.**
- 4 **Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head,
we are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be
in your presence constantly, living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to me.**

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
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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)-Margaret Aldredge; (11:00)-Marty Hagberg

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

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

Ushers: (8:30)-Tom Smith; (11:00)-Tom Conrad

THE LESSONS

Sunday, February 25

FIRST READING: Excerpts from 4 Life Chapters of Joseph in Genesis

The first reading is from the book of Genesis, chapters 37, 41 & 50

Life Chapter 1: Genesis 37:3, 31-32

Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe.

Life Chapter 2: Genesis 37:31-33

³¹The brothers of Joseph took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood. ³²They had the ornamented robe taken to their father, and they said, "This we have found; see now whether it is your son's robe or not." ³³Jacob recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! A wild animal has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."

Life Chapter 5: Genesis 41:46

Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Life Chapter 9: Genesis 50:16-25

¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Psalm 71

The second reading is from Psalm 71. We read it responsively.

- L** Good Lord, you have kept me within the secure embrace of your love these many years.
- C** **My life is one long list of divine deliverances.**
- L** I have come running to you again and again when the forces of evil set themselves against me.
- C** **From the moment of my birth, I was dedicated to your will, and I was given life by you, only to yield it back to you.**
- L** And since that time, the days and hours of my life have been filled with praise for you.
- C** **You have guided me through my precarious youth, and drawn me back from its pitfalls.**
- L** As I near the late afternoon and evening of my life, I continue to seek your love and mercy. The enemies that plagued me in my youth still lay siege to my soul.
- C** **But you have kept me safe throughout life's conflicts. You have healed my wounds and comforted me in my afflictions.**

The Psalm continues on the back.

Psalm 71 (cont.)

- L** Now I need your grace for my senior years.
I reach for the assurance of your love and concern.
- C** **Fill my heart with purpose
so that I may continue to proclaim your salvation.**
- L** You are, O God, the Creator and Performer
of great and glorious things. There is no one like you.
- C** **Thus I know that you will continue to love and care for me.**
- L** May every fiber of my being and every activity of my life
resound with praise and thanksgiving to my God
- C** **I will dedicate my remaining days to praising you,
championing your faithfulness, and proclaiming
your love and concern for all who will turn to you.**

*Adapted from Psalm 71 from Leslie Brandt's book "Psalm Now."
Publisher: Concordia Pub House; 3rd edition*

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-37

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter. **C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

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- P** The Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**