

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

February 18, 2024 9:45 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

NEW CHAPTERS OF VOCATION

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship & Music

P = Pastor C = All L = Leader

PRELUDE: *PLACE IN THIS WORLD*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OPENING SONG: *CONFIDENCE*

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

L 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.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:3-10

see insert

FIRST READING: Acts 9 excerpts

see insert

↑ GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

see insert

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

↑ SONG OF THE DAY: *SEED OF FAITH*

↑ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God," please respond, "Your mercy is great."

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

OFFERING

<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: *GIVE ME JESUS*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING &

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

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *SING WHEREVER I GO*

DISMISSAL

- L Go in peace. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THE LESSONS

Sunday, February 18

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

📖 The 1st reading is from the Old Testament book of 1st 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: ⁴Samuel! Samuel!

Narrator: Samuel got up and went running to Eli.

ALL: ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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: ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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): ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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 2nd 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 ² 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. ³ 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, ⁴ and he falls to the ground at the sound of a voice.

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

ALL: ⁵ 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.

⁷ His other traveling companions just stand there, paralyzed, speechless because they, too, heard the voice; but there is nobody in sight. ⁸ 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.

¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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: ¹³ 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: ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ I have much to show him.

Narrator: ¹⁷ So Ananias went and he laid his hands on Saul and called to him....¹⁸ At that instant, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see²⁰ Then Saul went into the very synagogues he had intended to purge, proclaiming,

ALL: Jesus is God's Son!

Narrator: ²¹ 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: ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ and a voice echoed in the heavens.

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

Narrator: ¹² After that the Spirit compelled Him to go into the wilderness, ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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: ¹⁵ 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.