

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

## New Chapters



## NEW CHAPTERS IN AGENDA

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia  
March 10, 2024  
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor    Miriam Beecher, Pastor  
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

**P** = Pastor    **L** = Lector [reader]    **C** 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

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

**C** Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Holy God,

**C** **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.**

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

↑ **GATHERING HYMN:** *O Christ, Our Hope*

*ELW Hymn 604*

- 1 **O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire, creation's mighty Lord,  
redeemer of the fallen world, by holy love outpoured, by holy love outpoured.**
- 2 **How vast your mercy to accept the burden of our sin,  
and bow your head in cruel death to make us clean within, to make us clean within.**
- 3 **But now the bonds of death are burst, the ransom has been paid;  
you reign above at God's right hand, in robes of light arrayed, in robes of light arrayed.**
- 4 **Oh, let your mighty love prevail to purge us of our pride,  
that we may stand before your throne by mercy purified, by mercy purified.**
- 5 **All praise to you, ascended Lord; all glory ever be  
to Father, Son, and Spirit blest through all eternity, through all eternity!**

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.  
Text is in the public domain.

↑ **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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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: Hebrews 12:2, Hebrews 5:9, and John 3:16-17**

*see insert*

**SECOND READING: Matthew 10:16 and Luke 10:18-20**

*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*)**

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1990, 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.  
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↑ **GOSPEL: John 13:12-15 and John 13:34-35**

*see insert*

**SERMON**

Pastor Miriam

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Spirit, Open My Heart*

*ACS Hymn 1043*

**Refrain**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.**

- 1 **God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain***
- 2 **Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. *Refrain***

*Hymn continues on next page ►*

**3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of friend and neighbor.  
As I live from day to day, love will be my finest labor. *Refrain***

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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**↑ 8:30-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.**

**11:00-RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**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)** *He Comes to Us as One Unknown, John Ferguson*

*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.*

*Lamb of God on next page ►*

- ☞ **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: *Just As I Am, without One Plea***

*ELW Hymn 592*

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come,**
- 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

Text 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: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross***

*ELW Hymn 335*

- 1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

*Refrain*

**In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

- 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *Refrain***
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain***
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain***

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Text in the public domain.

↑ **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 Talbott*

*Lector: (8:30)-Bill Grabill; (11:00)-Miki Stork*

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

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

*Ushers: (8:30)-Mark Barbour; (11:00)-Ben McCumber, Harper McCumber*

# THE LESSONS

Sunday, March 10

## ה ז ה

*When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. Exodus 16:15*

**FIRST READING: Hebrews 12:2, Hebrews 5:9, and John 3:16-17**  
**The Co-AUTHOR of Our Life Stories - WHAT IS IT?**

📖 The First Reading is from Hebrews and John

**Hebrews 12:2 and 5:9**

<sup>2</sup> Looking unto Jesus, the **AUTHOR** and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>9</sup> And having been perfected, He became the **AUTHOR** of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

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**John 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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📖 The word of the Lord      🙏 Thanks be to God

**SECOND READING: Matthew 10:16 and Luke 10:18-20**  
**God’s authority... the AGENDA for rejoicing - WHAT IS IT?**

📖 The Second Reading is from Matthew and Luke

**Matthew 10:16**

Jesus said, “Listen carefully: I am sending you out like sheep among wolves; so be wise as serpents, and innocent as doves with no self-serving **agenda**.”

**Luke 10:18-20**

<sup>18-20</sup> “See what I’ve given you? Safe passage as you walk on snakes and scorpions, and protection from every assault of the Enemy. No one can put a hand on you. All the same, the great triumph is not in your **AUTHOR**-ity over evil, but in God’s **AUTHOR**-ity over you and presence with you. Not what you do for God but what God does for you—that’s the **agenda** for rejoicing.”

*The Message (MSG)*

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📖 The word of the Lord      🙏 Thanks be to God

*The Gospel and additional readings are on the back ►*

**THE GOSPEL READING: John 13:12-15 and John 13:34-35**  
**The NEW COMMANDMENT - WHAT IS IT?**

📖 The Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter 🎵 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 13:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

**John 13:34-35**

I give you a new commandment, that you **love one another**. Just as I have **loved you**, you also should **love one another**. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love for one another**.”

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📖 The Gospel of the Lord. 🎵 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The following citations are for reference in the sermon.  
*The ADENDA for the next chapter and the next chapter  
and every new chapter: THE COMMANDMENT*

JERUSALEM ~ Jesus said. “This is my commandment, that you **love one another** as I have **loved** you...I am giving you these commands so that you may **love one another**. *John 15:12, 17*

GALATIA ~ For you, my brothers and sisters, were called to freedom; only do not let your freedom *become* an opportunity for the selfishness, but through love serve *and* seek the best for one another. *Galatians 5:13*

ROME ~ **Love one another** with mutual affection; outdo **one another** in showing honor. Owe no **one** anything, except to love one another. *Romans 12:10; 13:8*

THESSALONICA ~ Now concerning **love** of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to **love one another**, for the one who loves **another** has fulfilled the law (commandment.) And may the Lord make you increase and abound in **love** for **one another** and for all, just as we abound in **love** for you. *1 Thessalonians 4:9; 3:12 and 2 Thessalonians 1:3 NRSV*

EPHESUS ~ With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with **one another in love**. *Ephesians 4:2*

JERUSALEM (?) Let us consider how to provoke **one another to love** and good deeds. *Hebrews 10:24*

REGIONS OF ASIA MINOR ~ Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, **love one another** deeply from the heart. *1 Peter 1:22*

THE CHURCH SCATTERED ABROAD ~ You ask God for something and do not receive it, because you ask with wrong motives out of selfishness or with an unholy **agenda**, so that when you get what you want you may spend it on your self-gratifying desires. *James 4:3*

[from the translation: AMPLIFIED]