

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
February 23, 2025
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Anna Walker, Preacher

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)*
↑ Please stand as you are able.

*The prelude is the beginning of the worship service and is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.
Please be respectful of the worshippers around you who are using this time for that purpose.*

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 take a pre-packaged kit with grape juice and a gluten-free wafer from the center communion server. Please tell an usher if you need communion brought to you where you sit.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ 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: *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

ELW Hymn 707

**1 Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice;
and with that have freely given blessings countless as the sand
to the unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.**

**2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness melt our thankless hearts of stone
till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by you, at length believe
that more happy and more blessed 'tis to give than to receive.**

**3 Wondrous honor you have given to our humblest charity
in your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to me."
Naked, sick, in prison, hungry—in the least, your face we view,
saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you."**

**4 Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, hope, to stay our souls on you:
but, oh, best of all your graces, with your love our love renew.**

↑ **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** *Now the Feast and Celebration*

ELW Hymn 167

**Refrain-Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!**

**1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. Refrain**

2 Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever. Refrain

**3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God;
to make all things new. Refrain**

Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950

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↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

see insert

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

see insert

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Listen to the Word**

ACS Hymn 974

**Listen to the word that God has spoken; listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation; listen even if you don't understand.**

Text: Anonymous, Canada

Text is in the public domain.

↑ **GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38**

see insert

SERMON

Pastor Anna Walker

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY: In All Our Grief**

ELW Hymn 615

**1 In all our grief and fear we turn to you.
O God, you know all that we think or do,
you know the pain we put each other through.**

Refrain-Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, grant us peace.

**2 Help us to put aside the angry word,
the clenching fist, the wish and will to hurt.
Teach us the way in which love best is served. Refrain**

**3 You did not even spare your only Son.
He lived our griefs and bore all evil done,
but through his cross, redemption has been won. Refrain**

**4 God, when we suffer all that we can bear,
then let us know that you in truth are near
and will not leave us lost in all our fear. Refrain**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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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 "God of grace," please respond, "Hear our prayer."

The prayers are ended with these words, "We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people." Please respond, "Amen."

A MINISTRIES AND SMALL GROUPS MOMENT

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We now dedicate the financial gifts we offer to the Lord and the Lord's agenda, gifts either already given online, or before or after the service in the offering box. Likewise, we prayerfully consider the ways we offer ourselves to God's kingdom throughout the whole week.

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>



MUSICAL OFFERING (11:00) *Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies Sake, R. Farrant*

Sanctuary Choir

↑ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ **And also with you.**

☞ Lift up your hearts.

☞ **We lift them to the Lord.**

☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☞ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

☞ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

☞ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are 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 S200

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

↑ THE LORD'S PRAYER

☞ **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.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Lamb of God*

ELW S201

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: *I Come with Joy**ELW Hymn 482*

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.**
- 2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.**
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.**
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.**
- 5 Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

- ☞** The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.
- ☞** Amen.

↑ SENDING HYMN: *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**
- 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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↑ SENDING

- ☞** Go in peace. Live in hope.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- ☞** Thanks be to God.

↑ POSTLUDE

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Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, administered by Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible, copyrighted 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved.*Altar Guild: Carol Jensen-Linton**Assisting Ministers: (8:30) Tom Rehak (11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton**Lector: (8:30) Delee Rehak (11:00) Mary Jeffrey**Tech crew: (8:30) Davida Kilgore**(11:00) Joni Siepert, Kendra Campbell-Milburn, Brad Milburn**Usher: (8:30) Jim Basinger, Stephen Gundersen (11:00) Mike & Pat Oliver**Communion servers: (8:30) Buddy & Jayne Troy, Pat Ronco**(11:00) Sharon Lynch, Gail & Fred Herbert**Altar flowers given in remembrance of the 80th wedding anniversary of the late Bob and Betty King by Cinda and Richard King*

THE LESSONS

Sunday, February 23

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

The first reading is from Genesis, the 45th chapter.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

The second reading is from 1 Corinthians, the 15th chapter.

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God

Gospel on the back.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter. **G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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