

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

## COLORFUL CHARACTERS-THOMAS

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia

March 9, 2025 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** *Canon of Grace, Linda R. Lamb*

*Peace Ringers*

*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

#### ⤴ CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

☐ Compassionate One,

☑ **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.  
We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.  
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.  
We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.  
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.  
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.  
Amen.**

☐ Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.  
In ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

☑ **Amen.**

#### ⤴ GATHERING HYMN: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

*ELW Hymn 611*

**1 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.**

**2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.**

## ↑ 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

*ELW Hymn 157*

☞ In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

☞ **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

☞ For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☞ **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

☞ For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

☞ **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

☞ Help, save, and defend us, O God.

☞ **Amen.**

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

*see insert*

**SECOND READING: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

*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: John 20:19-31

*see insert*

## SERMON

Pastor Anna Walker

## ↑ HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Walk by Faith*

*ELW Hymn 635*

1 **We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."**

2 **We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;  
but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

3 **Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:**

4 **For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:  
beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.**

5 **And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light  
we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.**

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Text is in the public domain.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:**

**join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word  
to all the world.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes “God, in your mercy.” please respond, “Receive our prayer.”  
The prayers are ended with these words, “Receive the prayers of your people ... who leads us from death to life.” Please respond, “Amen.”*

## ↑ EXCHANGING THE PEACE

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always

☑ **And also with you.**

*We share a sign of God’s peace.*

## 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** *Lenten Carol, Marc Robinson*

*Sanctuary choir; Chris Johns, cello*

## ↑ 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 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

☑ **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 grape juice and gluten-free wafer.*

**COMMUNION HYMN:** *O Christ, Lamb of God*

*ELW Hymn 195*

**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.**

**COMMUNION HYMN:** *When We Are Tested*

*ACS Hymn 922*

- 1 **When we are tested and wrestle alone, famished for bread when the world offers stone,  
nourish us, God, by your word and your way, food that sustains us by night and by day.**
- 2 **When in the desert we cry for relief, pleading for paths marked by certain belief,  
lift us to love you beyond sign and test, trusting your presence, our only true rest.**
- 3 **When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for the pow’r to control,  
teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do.**
- 4 **When we have struggled and searched through the night, sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,  
Savior, surround us with circles of care, angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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↑ **PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION**

☞ God our tender parent, God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

↑ **SENDING 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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↑ **SENDING**

☞ Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

↑ **POSTLUDE**

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*Altar Guild: Judy Owen*

*Assisting Minister: (8:30) Tom Rehak (11:00)*

*Lector: (8:30) Karl Dietmeyer (11:00) April Peterson*

*Communion Assistants: (8:30) Buddy & Jayne Troy, Margaret Aldredge  
(11:00) Allison McCumber, Ethan Miller, Patrick Bauer*

*Tech crew: (8:30) Davida Kilgore (11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton, Tom Smith, Brad Milburn*

*Ushers: (8:30) Jim Basinger, Bob Spruck (11:00) Mike & Pat Oliver*

# THE LESSONS

Sunday, March 9

## FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

☐ The 1st reading is from Deuteronomy, the 26th chapter

<sup>1</sup> When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

☐ The Word of the Lord. ☑ **Thanks be to God**

## SECOND READING: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

☐ We read the Psalm responsively

- <sup>1</sup> You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—  
<sup>2</sup> **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust.”**
- <sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,  
<sup>10</sup> **no evil will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
- <sup>11</sup> For God will give the angels charge over you,  
to guard you in all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup> **Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- <sup>13</sup> You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.  
<sup>14</sup> **I will deliver those who cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
- <sup>15</sup> They will call me, and I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.  
<sup>16</sup> **With long life will I satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

*Gospel is on the back.*

## **GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

📖 The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

🙌 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🙌 **Praise to you, O Christ.**