Third Sunday in Lent
Colorful Characters-Judas

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

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Ethan Miller, 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

⇧ CONFESSION 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: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* *ELW Hymn 324*

1 In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872 Text 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 *ELW Hymn 157*

L In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
L For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
L For your people here who have come to give you praise,for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
L Help, save, and defend us, O God.
C **Amen.**

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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⇧ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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: Zechariah 11:7-14 *see insert*

SECOND READING: Psalm 63:1-8 *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. Used by permission. OneLicense #A-701929

⇧ GOSPEL: Matthew 26:6-25, 36-50 *see insert*

SERMON Ethan Miller

⇧ HYMN OF THE DAY: *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*

1 O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior, and life mor abundant and free!

***Refrain*-Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,**
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.

2 Through death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there;
over us sin no more hath dominion for more that conquerors we are! *Refrain*

3 His word shall not fail you He promised; believe Him, and all will be well;
then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell! *Refrain*

Text: Helen H. Lemmel, 1863-1961 Text in the public domain.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (if any present)

⇧ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

P Let us profess our baptismal faith together.
C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

Continued on next page.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always
C **And also with you.**
We share a sign of God's peace.

MINISTRY MOMENT

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING *(11:00)-Father, Forgive Them, Michael John Trotta* *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 grape juice and gluten-free wafer.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Lamb of God* *ELW Hymn 195*

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: *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* *ELW Hymn 445*

1 **Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.**
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight. *Hymn continues on next page.*

2 **We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.**
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
One with christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children heirs.

3 **Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!**
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
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⇧ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen.**

⇧ SENDING HYMN: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* *ELW Hymn 623*

1 **Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;**
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

2 **Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;**
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

3 **Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.**
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 **While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,**
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778 Text in the public domain.

⇧ SENDING

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

⇧ POSTLUDE

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Altar Guild: Judy Own
Lector: (8:30) Jaycine Lester (11:00)-Kathie Manes
Assisting Minister: (8:30) Tom Rehak (11:00)
Communion Servers: (8:30) Sue & Bob Blackburn, Chip Beard
(11:00) Eileen Conrad, Vickie Dauenhauer, Sharon Lynch
Tech crew: (8:30) Davida Kilgore (11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton, Tom Smith, Brad Milburn
Ushers: (8:30) John Musil, Bob Spruck (11:00) Mike & Pat Oliver

The Lessons

Sunday, March 23

FIRST READING: Zechariah 11:7-14

L The 1st reading is from Zechariah, the 11th chapter

7So, on behalf of the sheep merchants, I became the shepherd of the flock doomed to slaughter. I took
two staffs; one I named Favor, the other I named Unity, and I tended the sheep. 8In one month I
disposed of the three shepherds, for I had become impatient with them, and they also detested me. 9So I
said, "I will not be your shepherd. What is to die, let it die; what is to be destroyed, let it be destroyed;
and let those that are left devour the flesh of one another!" 10I took my staff Favor and broke it,
annulling the covenant that I had made with all the peoples. 11So it was annulled on that day, and the
sheep merchants, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the LORD. 12I then said to them,
"If it seems right to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." So they weighed out as my wages
thirty shekels of silver. 13Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it into the treasury" — this lordly price at
which I was valued by them. So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them into the treasury in
the house of the LORD. 14Then I broke my second staff Unity, annulling the family ties between Judah
and Israel.

L The Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING: Psalm 63:1-8

L We read the Psalm responsively

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
2 **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,**
that I might behold your power and your glory.
3 For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
4 **So will I bless you as long as I live**
and lift up my hands in your name.
5 My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
6 **when I remember you upon my bed,**
and meditate on you in the night watches.
7 For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
8 **My whole being clings to you;**
your right hand holds me fast.

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:6-25, 36-50

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 26th chapter. C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

6Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, 7a woman came to him with an
alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. 8But when the
disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? 9For this ointment could have been sold for
a large sum, and the money given to the poor." 10But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you
trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. 11For you always have the poor with you,
but you will not always have me. 12By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for
burial. 13Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done
will be told in remembrance of her."
14Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15and said, "What will
you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16And from that moment he
began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Gospel continues on the back

Gospel (cont.)

[17]On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" [18]He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" [19]So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. [20]When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; [21]and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." [22]And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" [23]He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. [24]The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." [25]Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

[36]Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." [37]He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. [38]Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." [39]And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." [40]Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? [41]Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." [42]Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." [43]Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. [44]So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. [45]Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. [46]Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."
[47]While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. [48]Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." [49]At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. [50]Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

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