

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
August 31, 2025 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Wes Smith, Associate Pastor
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

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

*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

- ☐ In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
☑ **Amen.**
Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.
- ☐ Merciful God,
☑ **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.
Amen.**
- ☐ You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
☑ **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.

↑ GATHERING HYMN *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*

ACS Hymn 977

- 1 **Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring.
Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing.
Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done.
Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for ev'ryone.**
- 2 **Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers appear,
saints confessing how they wrestled with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
Peter tells of his denying Christ was ever in his sight;
Paul relates his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light.**
- 3 **Their sad stories are repeated in a thousand diff'rent ways,
but they share one thing in common: they all end in thanks and praise
for the host who has invited north and south and east and west
to converge around this table, where all life is fed and blest.**

Hymn continues on next page.

- 4 **Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes when he blesses bread and breaks it—truth and manna from above!—and then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.**

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

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↑ 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 *Glory Be to God in Heaven*

ELW S204a

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
 Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
 we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
 Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
 Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
 For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Let us pray. O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 ☞ **Amen.**

READING Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

see insert

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
 Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
 Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

—ELW S205a

↑ GOSPEL Luke 14:1, 7-14

see insert

SERMON

Pastor Wes

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY *Come Now, You Blessed*

ACS Hymn 1059

- 1 **"Come now, you blessed, eat at my table," said Jesus Christ to the righteous above.
 "When I was hungry, thirsty, and homeless, sick and in prison, you showed me your love."**
- 2 **When did we see you hungry or thirsty? When were you homeless, a stranger alone?
 When did we see you sick or in prison? What have we done that you call us your own?**
- 3 **"When you gave bread to earth's hungry children, when you gave welcome to war's refugees,
 when you remembered those most forgotten, you cared for me in the smallest of these."**
- 4 **Christ, when we meet you out on life's roadways, looking to us in the faces of need,
 then may we know you, welcome and show you love that is faithful in word and in deed.**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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↑ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

A 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.

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, "Confident in God's presence and promise, ... through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion." Please respond, "Amen."

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 (8:30) Trust in God

Gary Pederson

Please stand as you are able

↑ OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

↑ 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 power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

—ELW S207

↑ 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.

C O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

—ELW S208

COMMUNION HYMN *As We Gather at Your Table*

ELW Hymn 522

- 1** As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.
- 2** Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
- 3** Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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↑ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING and PRAYER

- P** Let us pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
- C** Amen.

↑ BLESSING

- P** The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

↑ SENDING HYMN *Welcome Table*

ACS Hymn 969

- 1** I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table, I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table, I'm goin'-a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.
- 2** I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey, I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey, I'm goin'-a feast on milk and honey, some of these days.
- 3** I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river, I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river, I'm goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.

Text: African American spiritual.

Text is in the public domain.

↑ SENDING

- A** Go in peace. Live and love by the Spirit.
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: Betty Schmidt**Assisting Minister: (11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton**Communion Servers: (8:30) Mike & Sue Earwood, Margaret Aldredge**(11:00) Vickie Dauenhauer, Sharon Lynch, April Peterson**Lector: (8:30) Buddy Troy (11:00) David Beecher**Tech crew: (8:30) Chris Gritti, Brad Milburn (11:00) Kendra Campbell-Milburn, Brad Milburn, Joni Siepert**Usher: (8:30) Jim Basinger, Buddy Troy (11:00) Mike & Pat Oliver*

THE LESSONS

Sunday, August 31

READING Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

℣ The reading is from Hebrews, the 13th chapter.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

ℙ The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

ℙ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

