

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
September 7, 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

⬆ CONFESSON 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 *Jesus, the Light of the World*

ACS Hymn 914

1 **Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the newborn king," Jesus, the Light of the world.**

**Refrain-We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.**

2 **Joyful, all you nations, rise; Jesus, the Light of the world;
join the triumph of the skies; Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

3 **Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Jesus, the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

4 **Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Jesus, the Light of the world;
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845-1928, refrain
Text in the public domain.

↑ GREETING

- [P] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 [C] 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

- [P] Let us pray. O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 [C] Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

see insert

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11; Romans 15:1-6; Hebrews 10:19-25

↑ 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 John 14.1-20, selected verses

see insert

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care*

RWSB R206

- 1 Lord, it belongs not to my care whether I die or live;
to love and serve thee is my share, and this thy grace must give.
If life be long, I will be glad that I may long obey;
if short, yet why should I be sad to soar to endless day?
- 2 Christ leads me through no darker rooms than he went through before;
they that unto God's kingdom come must enter by this door.
Come, Lord, when grace has made me meet thy blessed face to see;
for if thy work on earth be sweet, what will thy glory be!
- 3 Then shall I end my sad complaints and weary, sinful days,
and join with the triumphant saints who sing my Savior's praise.
My knowledge of that life is small, the eye of faith is dim;
but 'tis enough that Christ knows all, and I shall be with him.

Text: Richard Baxter, 1615-1691 Text is in the public domain.

↑ 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.

Continued on next page.

**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, "Receive our prayer."
The prayers are ended with these words, "We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend." Please respond, "Amen."*

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) *Acceptance, Thomas Keesecker Sanctuary choir; Richard King, flugelhorn*

Stand as you are able

↑ OFFERING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 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 *I Received the Living God*

ELW Hymn 477

Refrain-I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.

I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.

1 Jesus said: I am the bread, kneaded long to give you life;
you who will partake of me need not ever fear to die. **Refrain****2** Jesus said: I am the way, and my Father longs for you;
so I come to bring you home to be one with us anew. **Refrain****3** Jesus said: I am the truth; come and follow close to me.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free. **Refrain****4** Jesus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,
but receive this living bread, and my Spirit you shall know. **Refrain**

Text: Anonymous Text in the public domain.

↑ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING and PRAYER**P** Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.**C** Amen.**↑ BLESSING****P** The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free, ✚ bless you now and forever.**C** Amen.**↑ SENDING HYMN** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW Hymn 815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**Refrain**-In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**2** I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. **Refrain****3** I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

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↑ SENDING**A** Go in peace. Be filled with hope.
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: Pat Oliver

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Cathy Climo (11:00) Patrick Bauer

Communion Servers: (8:30) Shelly Jones, Betty Schmidt, Brenda Nuscher

(11:00) Dave & Sue Byers; April Peterson

Lector: (8:30) (11:00)

Tech crew: (8:30) Chris Gritti, Brad Milburn (11:00) Chris Gritti, Kendra Campbell-Milburn, Brad Milburn, Joni Siepert

Usher: (8:30) Stephen Gundersen, Bob Spruck (11:00) Tom Conrad, Ethan Miller

Altar flowers given by Carol Jensen-Linton in honor of Chris & Dani Linton's birthdays.

THE LESSONS

Sunday, September 7

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

📖 The New Testament readings are from 1 Thessalonians, Romans, and Hebrews.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore **encourage one another and build up each other**, as indeed you are doing.

Romans 15:1-6

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. ³For Christ did not please himself, but, as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵**May the God of steadfastness and encouragement** grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to **provoke one another to love and good deeds**, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, **but encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God

Gospel is on the back.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-20, selected verses

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter. **G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. . . . ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. . . . ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”. . . ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. . . . ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, . . . you know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. . . because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

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