

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

A black and white photograph of an open church door leading to a garden path. The door is ornate and stands open, revealing a stone path that winds through a lush garden with various plants and trees. The interior of the church is visible on the left, showing a table and chairs. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inviting.

OPENING DOORS

OPEN DOORS TO **CHRIST**
WITH US THIS SPRING

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
February 22, 2026 8:30 & 11:00 am

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

P = Pastor **L** = Lector [reader] **C** = Congregation
ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

*Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction.
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

11:00-CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed
in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who
raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

ELW Hymn 319

Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.

APOSTOLIC 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.**

Refrain-ALL sing: Mercy, we abide in you. Stir in us, we pray.

Leader/Cantor:

- 1 In peace, may we assemble. In peace, may we unite.
In peace, may we be whole. Move within each heart. **Refrain-ALL**
- 2 For all who suffer in war, for all who struggle for comfort,
for all who slumber in ease. Move within each heart. **Refrain-ALL**
- 3 We are broken, longing for peace, forgiveness, flow among us.
May we be reconciled. Move within each heart. **Refrain-ALL**

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

You may be seated

PSALMODY *Psalm 32*

Congregation reads/sings the verses in **BOLD**

Refrain-ALL sing: *Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.*

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!
- ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.
- ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer. Refrain.**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye. Refrain.**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. **Refrain.**

READING *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7*

L The reading is from Genesis, the 2nd & 3rd chapters.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,[a] knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

Please stand as you are able

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 *Matthew 4:1-11*

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *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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OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

- ☞** Let us profess our baptismal faith.
- ☞** **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.
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.

You may be seated

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The prayers begin with singing ELW 751-O Lord, Hear My Prayer. The response after each petition is another sung time of ELW 751. The prayers will conclude with one final time of ELW 751.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

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Please stand as you are able

EXCHANGING THE PEACE *We share a sign of God's peace.*

☞ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☞ **And also with you.**

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-Lenten Carol, Marc Robinson*

Sanctuary Choir

Chris Johns, cellist

Please stand as you are able

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- ☞ May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
☞ **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- ☞ Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
☞ **Amen.**

BLESSING

- ☞ Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.
☞ **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Cast Out, O Christ

ACS Hymn 1016, Tune: DETROIT

- 1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far away the demons that destroy:
the haunting dreads that choke our souls, the hates that stifle joy.**
- 2 Our raging griefs, our jealous fears are Legion in their name.
Our shackled hearts implore your grace to loose our binding shame.**
- 3 Once long ago, from Galilee, you sailed to storm-tossed shores.
And still, in pow'r, you brave new paths to breach our bolted doors.**
- 4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that break through evil's thrall.
You send us, strengthened, home in peace to live your gospel call.**
- 5 So come, O Christ, and cast away the demons that destroy.
Transform our lives to sense your love and spread abroad your joy.**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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SENDING

- ☞ Go in peace. Believe the good news. Open doors to others.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgements

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Altar Guild: Carol Jesnen-Linton

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Debra Neu, Chip Beard, Jaycine Lester (11:00) Mary & Jeff Jeffrey, Richard King

Lector: (8:30) Laura Musil (11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton

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

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