

THIRD 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 text 'OPENING DOORS' is overlaid on the image in large, bold, white letters with black outlines. 'OPENING' is on the top line, and 'DOORS' is on the bottom line, with the 'O' in 'DOORS' being significantly larger than the other letters.

OPENING  
DOORS

OPEN DOORS TO CHRIST  
WITH US THIS SPRING

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

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

☐ = Pastor              ☒ = Lector [reader]              ☑ = 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

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

☑ **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

☐ Gracious God,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

☐ 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.

☑ **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN              *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*

*ELW Hymn 777*

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

### APOSTOLIC 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.**

**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**

☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ **And also with you.**

☞ Let us pray. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

*You may be seated*

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT**

**PSALMODY** *Psalm 95*

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

**11:00 ONLY-Refrain-ALL sing: Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

- <sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing | to the LORD;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
- <sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**
- <sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
- <sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**
- <sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
- <sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker. Refrain.**
- <sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.  
Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!
- <sup>8</sup> **"Harden | not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**
- <sup>9</sup> There your ancestors | tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.
- <sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.'**
- <sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore | in my anger,  
'They shall never come | to my rest.' " **Refrain.**

**READING** *1 Peter 3:15 Romans 5:1-11*

☞ The reading is from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter and Romans, the 5th chapter.

<sup>15</sup>Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, *Continues next page.*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**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** *John 4:27-42*

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

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

<sup>27</sup> Just then (Jesus') disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

**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** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

*ELW Hymn 611*

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

## 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-As the Deer, Greg Scheer**

*Sanctuary Choir  
Carolyn West & Lizzy Cunningham, soloists*

*Please stand as you are able*

**8:30 ONLY-OFFERTORY** *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

*ELW Hymn 811*

**On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace,  
that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!**

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856-1921, alt. Text is in the public domain.

### OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

☑ **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

*As Your Spirit in the Desert*

*ACS Hymn 923*

- 1** As your Spirit in the desert led the Christ to dust and stone,  
so instill our hearts with courage now to cross where Christ has gone.  
Let us cross into the wilderness so to walk where Christ has gone.
- 2** As your fire and cloudy pillar Israel's tribes to Canaan led,  
may your presence be our comfort, may your manna be our bread.  
Let us cross into the wilderness with God's manna as our bread.
- 3** Though wild beasts may lurk in shadow, and dire thirst may sear and sting,  
you have promised living waters waiting for us at the spring.  
Let us cross out of the wilderness to the waters of the spring.
- 4** Through the narrow gate now draw us, past all empire's pull and strife,  
where beyond our fear and clinging stands the threshold of new life.  
Let us cross out of the wilderness to the threshold of new life.
- 5** God of desert, God of promise, you have bid us journey on  
through the days of dust and darkness to the rising of the dawn.  
Let us cross out of the wilderness to the rising of the dawn.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 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: Judy Owen*

*Communion Assistants: (8:30) Debra Neu, Bill Grabill, Brenda Nuscher (11:00) Don & Miki Stork, Patrick Bauer*

*Lector: (8:30) Brenda Nuscher (11:00) Judy Owen*

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

*Ushers: (8:30) Steve Gundersen, Buddy Troy (11:00) Ethan Miller, Paul Talbott*