

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5th, 2026 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Wes Smith, Associate Pastor

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music Dr. Michael Stein, Organist

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

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The prelude is the beginning of the worship service.

Please refrain from loud conversations while the prelude music is playing.

PRELUDE *God of Our Fathers* *Dave Byers & David Beecher*

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C **Amen.**

P Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence for reflection

P God of all mercy,

C **we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of ✠ Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

C **Amen.**

EXCHANGING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We share a sign of God's peace

GATHERING HYMN

In Christ there is no East or West

ELW Hymn 650

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *God Bless Our Native Land*

ELW Hymn 891

1 **God bless our native land; firm may it ever stand through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
do thou our country save by thy great might.**

2 **So shall our prayers arise to God above the skies, on whom we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, guarding with watchful eye,
to thee aloud we cry: God save the state!**

Text: Charles T. Brooks, 1812-1883; John S. Dwight, 1813-1893

Text in Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord is with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray, Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

Please be seated.

PSALMODY Psalm 145:8-14

Read responsively

see insert page 5

READING Zechariah 9:9-12

see insert page 5

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

ELW Hymn 509

**God's word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.**

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Ole G. Belshem, 1861-1925, alt.

Text in public domain.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

see insert page 6

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Wes

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Firm a Foundation

ELW Hymn 796

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

THE APOSTLES CREED

P Let us profess our baptismal faith together.

G 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.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "God of grace," please respond, "Hear our prayer." The prayers are ended with these words, "Into your mercy, O God, we entrust..., through Jesus Christ, our Savior." 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 *Our Nation Shone Surprising Light, William Pasch*

Dave Byers, David Beecher

"Our Nation Shone Surprising Light" is a new hymn text honoring our country's 250th anniversary.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW Hymn 885

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

Text in the public domain.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord is 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 are you, God of power and might; heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

—ELW Hymn 191

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.

Please be seated.

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 the chalice of wine, or you may choose a packaged cup with grape juice and a gluten-free wafer.
Please indicate to the ushers if you need to have communion brought to you.*

COMMUNION HYMN *May We Be Free*

Tune: FINLANDIA

- 1** **May we be free, all peoples, tribes, and nations, as some have dreamed but none have yet achieved.
May we fulfill the hopes of generations with strength and will to live what they believed.
May we be free, our longed-for liberations grown from the seeds of all who fought and grieved.**
- 2.** **May we be free, pursuing transformation till bias, greed, and exploitation cease.
May we repent, engage in reparation, join in lament, and struggle for release.
May we be free, as fresh imagination helps us make real a just and lasting peace.**

Text: Hannah C. Brown, b. 1980

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Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** Let us pray. We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN CIVIC LIFE

- P** People of God you are chosen and named as God's beloved.
- You have received the gift of Christian vocation, a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest.
- Daily and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. I ask you, therefore: Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?
- C** **I will, and I ask God to help me.**
- P** Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?
- C** **I will, and I ask God to help me.**
- P** Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?
- C** **I will, and I ask God to help me.**
- P** Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your servants courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C** **Amen.**

BLESSING

- P** The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, + one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **C** **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* *ELW Hymn 890*
Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.

SENDING

- P** Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgements.

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Altar Guild: Carol Jensen-Linton

*Communion Assistants: (8:30) Sue & Bob Blackburn, Margaret Aldredge, Shelly Jones
(11:00) Dave & Sue Byers, Crystal Diffenbach*

Lector: (8:30) Linda Barkoot (11:00) Mary Jeffrey

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

Ushers: (8:30) (11:00)

This week's altar flowers are given by Paul & Carol Talbott in honor of Joyce Murry's 97th birthday..

THE LESSONS

Sunday, July 5

PSALMODY Psalm 145:8-14

☐ We read the psalm responsively.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

READING Zechariah 9:9-12

☐ The reading is from Zechariah, the 9th chapter.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

☐ Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel on back

GOSPEL Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

¹⁶ “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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