

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 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

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = 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 *Alman, Robert Johnson* *Mark Cutler, guitar*

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☐ Compassionate God,

☑ **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

☐ Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

☑ **Amen.**

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

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

GATHERING HYMN *Come Away to the Skies*

WOV Hymn 669

**1 Come away to the skies, my beloved, arise, and rejoice in the day you were born:
on this festival day, come exulting away, and with singing to Zion return.**

**2 For thy glory we were first created to share both the nature and kingdom divine;
now created again, that our lives may remain throughout time and eternity thine.**

**3 We with thanks do approve the design of that love which has joined us to Jesus' name;
so united in heart, let us nevermore part, till we meet at the feast of the Lamb.**

**4 Hallelujah we sing to our Father and King, and our rapturous praises repeat:
to the Lamb that was slain, hallelujah again; sing, all heaven, and fall at his feet.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Text in the public domain.

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.**

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

**Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.**

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Text © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress in North America, South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

Used by permission. OneLicense #A-701929

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ **And also with you.**

☞ Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

Please be seated.

READING Genesis 1:1-5, 14-19

see insert page 5

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW Hymn 172

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL Mark 4:30-34

see insert page 5

Please be seated.

SERMON Better Ways to Read the Bible Series: Literalism Lens

Pastor Fritz

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

ELW Hymn 684

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 APOSTLES CREED

☞ Let us profess our baptismal faith together.

☞ **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 "Hear us, O God," please respond, "Your mercy is great." The prayers are ended with these words, "Grant the prayers we have offered, ... We ask this in Jesus' name." 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 Pavan, Luis Milan

Mark Cutler, guitar

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 Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

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 1. Holy, holy, holy holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

2. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

—TFBF Hymn 32

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 Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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 *Lamb of God*

TFBF Hymn 35

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

MUSICAL OFFERING *We Come to Your Feast, Michael Joncas*

Mark Cutler, guitar

COMMUNION HYMN *Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal*

ELW Hymn 464

- 1 **Bread of life, our host and meal, Jesus, feed us.
Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.**
- 2 **Bread now break and wine now pour, Jesus, feed us.
Make us one, our hope restore; feed us with your love.**
- 3 **Grant forgiveness in the feast Jesus, feed us
for the greatest and the least; feed us with your love.**

Hymn continues next page.

**4 Thank you for this gift we share. Jesus, feed us.
Save God's children everywhere; feed us with your love.**

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense #A-701929

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.

G Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

G Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of hope, love and grace ✠ grant you strength and joy now and forever.

G Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

ELW Hymn 864

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

SENDING

P Go out in peace and love. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgements

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000345.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

All rights reserved worldwide.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Altar Guild: Pat Oliver

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Jaycine Lester, Sue & Bob Blackburn

(11:00) Ethan Miller, David Beecher, Sharon Lynch

Lector: (8:30) Nick Dunn

(11:00) Miriam Beecher

Tech Team: (8:30) Dakota Atkins, Davida Kilgore

(11:00) Kendra Campbell-Milburn, Joni Siepert, Brad Milburn

Ushers: (8:30) Jim Basinger, Bob Spruck

(11:00) Jim Christopher, Fred Gisler

This week's altar flowers are given by Dick and Pat Ronco in memory of Chrisann and AJ Anderson.

THE LESSONS

Sunday, September 6

First Lesson Genesis 1:1-5, 14-19

L The first lesson is from Genesis, the 1st chapter.

1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. . . .

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. **16** God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. **17** God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, **18** to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19** And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

L Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

G **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Mark 4:30-34

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

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

30 (Jesus) also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? **31** It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, **32** yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” **33** With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; **34** he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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