

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

God and Country Sunday ☩ July 5, 2020 ☩ 10:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music
David and Sue Byers, Musicians and Lectors

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)*

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate to the number in your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." So in these days of required distancing, longing to share the Lord's Supper again soon physically together at one table of the Lord, we acknowledge communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space. This will be another form of that connection. We understand no precedents are being set in these unique times.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

HYMN OF PRAISE: *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

- 1 **My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims pride,
From every mountain side, let freedom ring.**
- 2 **My native country, thee, land of the noble free, Thy name I love,
I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills, like that above.**
- 3 **Our forebears' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might, Great God, our king.**

DIALOGUE: THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE - July 4, 1776

- ☒ When God created humankind, he made them in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and God blessed them and named them "Humankind" when they were created. {Genesis 5:1}
- ☑ **"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.**
- ☒ "Among these are Life ..."
- ☑ **Jesus said, "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly."** {John 10:10}
- ☒ "Among these are Liberty ..."
- ☑ **Proclaim liberty to the captives. Bring good news to the oppressed.
Bind up the brokenhearted. Proclaim release to the prisoners.
And proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.** {Isaiah 61:1}
- ☒ "Among these are the Pursuit of Happiness ..."
- ☑ **The Master answered, "Come share my happiness with me."** {Matthew 25:21}
- ☒ To secure these rights of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.
- ☑ **For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore ... For we are called to freedom, brothers and sisters.** {Galatians 5:1}

GREETING

- ☐ From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

2

- ☐ Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties working toward justice and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ☑ Amen.

SELECTED VERSES

- ☐ Some presidents chose favorite verses from the Bible on which to lay their right hands when repeating the oath of office at their inaugurations. *(All are King James Version, which would have been used.)*
- ☐ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble ...” Psalm 46:1, *Woodrow Wilson, 1917*
- ☑ **In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness ...** {Psalm 31:1-2} *Chester A. Arthur, 1881*
- ☐ Judge not, that ye be not judged. {Matthew 7:1} *Abraham Lincoln, 1865*
Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! {Matthew 18:7} *Abraham Lincoln, 1865*
- ☑ **If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.** {2 Chronicles 7:14} *Ronald Reagan, 1981 and 1985*
- ☐ The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will. {Proverbs 21:1} *Andrew Johnson, 1865, and James A. Garfield, 1881*
- ☑ **Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?** {1 Kings 3:9-11} *William Howard Taft, 1909*
- ☐ He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he. {Proverbs 16:20-21} *William McKinley, 1901*
- ☑ **He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?** {Micah 6:8} *Warren G. Harding, 1921; Jimmy Carter, 1977*
- ☐ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal,
- ☑ **And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing** {1 Corinthians 13:1-2} *Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933, 1937, 1941, 1945*
- ☐ The word of the Lord. ☑ Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE HYMN: God of Our Fathers

Tune: NATIONAL HYMN

- 1 **God of our fathers, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies: our grateful songs before your throne arise.**
- 2 **Your love divine has led us in the past; in this free land by you our lot is cast;
oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay; your word our law, your paths our chosen way.**
- 4 **Refresh your people on their toilsome way; lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with heav’n-born love and grace until at last we meet before your face.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 28-30

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“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.” ►

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the 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.”

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

SONG OF THE DAY: *Bless All the Nations, Lord*

Tune: God Bless America

- 1 Bless all the nations, Lord, you give as home.
Bless all leaders with wisdom with the light shining bright from your throne.
Bless the homeless and the hopeless, all the children, lost and lone.
Bless all the nations, Lord, you give as home. Bless all the nations, Lord, you give as home.
- 2 Help us to love the world, just as you do.
Fill our hearts, Lord, with Christ’s love that we all may give glory to you.
Bless the hungry and the weary. Show us all what we can do.
Help us to love the world just as you do; bring peace to all the world; we trust in you.
- 3 Where people fight and die, may conflict cease.
Touch the people in all lands with a heartfelt commitment to peace.
Heal all hatreds, calm all vengeance. From such passions bring release.
Bless all the nations, Lord, so wars may cease. Give to all people, Lord, your wondrous peace.

Words: Rev. Dr. Fred Meuser. Used by permission. Suggested by Pastor Fred Wiese.

INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

- L** We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.
- C** Respect the LORD your God, and do what he has told you to do. Love him. Serve the LORD your God with your whole being, ¹³and obey the LORD’s commands and laws that I am giving you today for your own good. {Deuteronomy 6:12-13}

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED

- P** Let us confess 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.
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.

FROM PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

4

- ☐ “It is for us, the living ... to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought ... have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to ... take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that ... [our] dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that the government: of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.”
- ☑ ¹⁰“Be still, then, and know that I am God.” {Psalm 46:10}

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, “Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Please respond, “Amen.”*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- ☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ **And also with you.**
- ☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**
- ☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- ☐ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☑ **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.**

SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*As you see the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
“The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *America, the Beautiful*

ELW Hymn 888

- 1 **O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain:
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**
- 3 **O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Land of Bounty! Land of Beauty!*

Tune: BEACH SPRING

- 1 **Land of bounty! Land of beauty! Land of hope, so rich in Grace!
From our founding in new promise to our rocketing through space,
Creature habitats abounding, mountain grandeur, tidal streams,
Fertile farmland, vast resources shine as gifts surpassing dreams.**
- 2 **Called to share fair freedom's treasures, we became a beacon bright,
Off'ring to the yearning pilgrims opportunity as right;
Mettle strengthened by our melding, all earth's cultures our alloy,
Tempered and refined by talent, fruitful in creative joy.**
- 3 **But when pride in independence joins with passion to possess,
Social bonds sell out to power; common good, to selfishness.
When we seek mere private riches, poor in heart t'ward others' needs,
All our high words may ring hollow if not matched by caring deeds.**
- 4 **Just and loving God of nations, guide our mending ev'ry flaw.
Shed again your light, your mercy, on our liberty in law.
May our noblest patriot visions prize anew this land, our home,
And yet see, in sharper focus, your bold truth and peace now come!**

Text: William A. Pasch, 2011. Dr. Pasch is Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Peachtree City. He is married to Pastor Katie Pasch.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

C Thanks be to God.

Altar Guild: Carol Jensen-Linton

*Sound and Video Crew: Bill Porter, Jason Breckling,
Tyler and Melissa Jacobson, Eric Jakubowski,
James Callison*

