

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

The First Sunday in Lent + February 21, 2021 + 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music Karl Dietmeyer,
Musician Leader

P = Pastor L = Lector [reader] C 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

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C **Amen.**

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Fountain of living water,

C **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

ELW Hymn 631

1 **Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

3 **Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Public Domain

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

READING: based on Galatians 5:16-26, “Fruitful Living”

- L Today’s Lesson is based on our Lenten Theme. Please read responsively with me—you at home, too.
- L Lord, sometimes life is hard when people get so negative with each other.
- C **Where is the joy in life when we tear each other down with enmity, strife, and jealousy?**
- L It’s hard to breathe when the atmosphere is polluted with quarrels, dissensions, factions, and envy.
- C **So Jesus followers, listen up! As St. Paul encourages us, be the positive change.**
- L Allow the Holy Spirit to bear new fruit through each of you: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- C **By shifting the menu to what Christ offers, others will start tasting the kingdom of God.**
- L Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us**ELW Hymn 358*

- 1 Great God, your love has called us here as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.**
- 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do while love is making all things new.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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GOSPEL: John 13:33-35

- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the thirteenth chapter.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] “Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue**ELW Hymn 644*

- 1 Although I speak with angel's tongue, my faith, my knowledge all surpass,
but have no love, my gifts are vain as clanging gong or blaring brass.**
- 2 For love is patient, love is kind, and never vain with boasting pride;
love bears all things, all things endures. All things must end; love will abide.**
- 4 The gifts are many, the Body one, and into one are all baptized.
Beloved, share one heart, one mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.**

OUR 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.

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, "We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord." Please respond, "Amen."*

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

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, 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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

P 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

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.

SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*As 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: *Beloved, God's Chosen*

- 1** Beloved, God's chosen, put on as a garment
compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.
Above all, before all, let love be your raiment
that binds into one every dissonant part.
- 2** Within, call forth Wisdom, to dwell in you richly;
let peace rule your hearts, and that peace be of Christ.
And from the heart's chamber, beloved and holy,
let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

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PASTORAL BLESSING**BENEDICTION**

- P** You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

ELW Hymn 708

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

- 1** Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*
- 2** Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain*
- 3** These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

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DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Share the good news.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Altar Guild: Carol Jensen-Linton

Tech Crew: Brad Milburn, Lindsay Eggen, David Turk, Sara Turk

No flowers grace the altar during the Lenten season.

