



**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Dennis A. Wenholz

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ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE      November 30, 2022

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**ADVENT MID-WEEK CHRISTMAS SERIES**  
**ANGELS: THE ULTIMATE DIVINE MESSENGERS OF HOPE**

Advent Mid-Week 1  
"The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope  
in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt"

**PRELUDE** *Organist*

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Peace Handbell Choir*  
"Kling, Glöckchen" – German Carol  
*arranged by Kristine Johaneck*

**PASTORAL WELCOME**

**INVOCATION** *(stand)*  
*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Holy Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of  
the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true  
heart and confess our sins unto God our Father,  
beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus  
Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,  
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

#### INVITATORY

P Behold, the King comes.

C **Oh, come, let us worship Him.**

#### OPENING HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” LSB 338 (Tune: LSB 700)

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,  
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Text: Public domain

#### THE 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 with your spirit.**

#### KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

#### SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we ask that you be with us this evening as we open Your Word. Coach us, teach us and help us to see that there is nothing too hard for You. Speak to us, Oh Lord, and help us understand that Your will is the best and that You will never leave us nor forsake us. In Your Holy Name we pray.

**C Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** *Isaiah 6:1-13*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

<sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

<sup>8</sup>And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” <sup>9</sup>And he said, “Go, and say to this people:

“‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand;  
keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’

<sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people dull,  
and their ears heavy,  
and blind their eyes;

lest they see with their eyes,  
and hear with their ears,  
and understand with their hearts,  
and turn and be healed.”

<sup>11</sup>Then I said, “How long, O Lord?”  
And he said:

“Until cities lie waste  
without inhabitant,  
and houses without people,  
and the land is a desolate waste,

<sup>12</sup>and the LORD removes people far away,  
and the forsaken places are many in the midst of  
the land.

<sup>13</sup>And though a tenth remain in it,  
it will be burned again,  
like a terebinth or an oak,  
whose stump remains  
when it is felled.”

The holy seed is its stump.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 122**

P I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

**C Our feet have been standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

P Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together,

**C to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the  
name of the LORD.**

P There thrones for judgment were set,  
the thrones of the house of David.

**C Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
“May they be secure who love you!”**

P Peace be within your walls  
and security within your towers!”

**C For my brothers and companions’ sake  
I will say, “Peace be within you!”**

P For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek your good.

**NEW TESTAMENT 1 Peter 2:13-25**

<sup>13</sup>Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup>or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup>For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup>Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as

servants of God. <sup>17</sup>Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

<sup>18</sup>Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. <sup>19</sup>For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:5-25**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>And they were both righteous before God,

walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

<sup>8</sup>Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup>according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup>And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup>And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup>And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup>and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

<sup>18</sup>And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." <sup>19</sup>And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." <sup>21</sup>And the people were

waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>22</sup>And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. <sup>23</sup>And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>24</sup>After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup>"Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES' CREED** (*stand*)

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and  
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

### MESSAGE HYMN

“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied” LSB 342 (Tune: LSB 349)

- 1 What hope! An Eden prophesied  
Where tame live with the wild;  
The lamb and lion side by side,  
Led by a little child!
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stem,  
A branch from David’s line,  
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:  
The fruit of God’s design.
- 3 As banner of God’s love unfurled,  
Christ came to suffer loss,  
That by His death a dying world  
Would rally to the cross.
- 4 Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,  
Lost Paradise restore;  
Lead past the angel’s flaming sword—  
Come, open heaven’s door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955  
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### HOMILY

Rev. Dennis Wenholz

**“The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope  
in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt”**

### OFFERTORY

“Prepare the Royal Highway” LSB 343 (verse 1)

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev’ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

### Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God’s Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
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### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (stand)

*After each petition:*

- P Let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

*After the final petition:*

- P ... one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

### LORD’S PRAYER

- P Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:  
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.

#### **SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Make His paths straight.**

#### **BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be  
gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠  
give you peace.

C **Amen.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN** *“Lord of All Hopefulness” LSB 738*

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the  
lathe:  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the  
day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-53  
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#### **POSTLUDE**

*Organist*