

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Dennis A. Wenholz

Rev. Khai N. Lee

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022

*The Mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ through worship and ministering to all God's people equipping them for service to God and to each other.*

**DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING ONE**

**PRELUDE**

*Organist*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Peace Handbell Choir*

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful" – arr. by Douglas E. Wagner*

**OPENING HYMN**

*"Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring" LSB 353*

- 1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,  
Came with peace from realms on high;  
Jesus came to win redemption,  
Lowly came on earth to die;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Came in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus comes again in mercy  
When our hearts are worn with care;  
Jesus comes again in answer  
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Comes to save us from despair.
- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,  
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;  
Jesus comes with words of gladness,



Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Hope to all the world is giv'n.

- 4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,  
Shares alike our hopes and fears;  
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Comforts us in failing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Text: Public domain

### Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C Amen.** Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 1 John 1:8-9

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present**

**and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### Service of the Word

**INTROIT** Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

P Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.

**C I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;**

P my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

**C O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.**

P And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.

**KYRIE** *Mark 10:47*

*LSB 152*

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** A - men.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

*LSB 156*

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

*Sit*

**FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 7:10–17*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL

*Psalm 24*

P The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,

**C for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.**

P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**C He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.**

P He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**C Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient  
doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**C Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient  
doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**C Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*"When Will the Little King Come?" – Ruth Elaine Schramm*

*Jane Parsons, Soprano Mac McIntosh, Tenor*

*Laura Shaghoian, Accompanist*

## EPISTLE

*Romans 1:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle,  
set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised

beforehand through his prophets in the holy  
Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from  
David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son  
of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his  
resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through  
whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring  
about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among  
all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to  
Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and  
called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**ALLELUIA** *John 6:68*

*LSB 156*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 1:18–25*

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

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☞ Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* LSB 338

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

### SERMON

Rev. Dennis Wenzholz

### "God's Invitation"

Stand

### OFFERTORY *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19* LSB 159



☞ What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

**APOSTLES' CREED**

*LSB 158*

**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  $\text{✠}$  everlasting. Amen.

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS:**

Darcie Majors, Kelly Webb

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*[1 Timothy 2:1-4]*

Service of the Sacrament

**PREFACE**

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

*[Colossians 3:1]*



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*[Psalm 136]*



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS** *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

*LSB 161*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*LSB 162*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks,

He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
 Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

*LSB 162*

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

Matthew 6:9-13

**PAX DOMINI** John 20:19

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



A - men.

**AGNUS DEI** John 1:29



Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

**DISTRIBUTION**

**PIANO SOLO** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

"Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed" LSB 560

- 1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed  
With healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in Thee my life, my rest,  
Christ crucified, I come.
- 2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,  
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;  
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,  
Christ crucified, I come.
- 3 Wash me and take away each stain;  
Let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing, though it be through pain,  
Christ crucified, I come.
- 4 And then for work to do for Thee,  
Which shall so sweet a service be  
That angels well might envy me,  
Christ crucified, I come.

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855-1928 Text: Public domain

*"When All the World Was Cursed"* LSB 346

- 1 When all the world was cursed  
By Moses' condemnation,  
Saint John the Baptist came  
With words of consolation.  
With true forerunner's zeal  
The greater One he named,  
And Him, as yet unknown,  
As Savior he proclaimed.
- 2 Before he yet was born,  
He leaped in joyful meeting,  
Confessing Him as Lord  
Whose mother he was greeting.





**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

*LSB 166*

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24-26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**CLOSING HYMN**

*“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”* *LSB 348*  
*(Tune: LSB 524)*

1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.

- 2 Not as of old a little child,  
To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
When Christ, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death  
Despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes  
And we shall see His face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt. Text: Public domain

**CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE**

*Organist*

**Acknowledgments**

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