

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Dennis A. Wenholz

Rev. Khai N. Lee

---

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day

December 25, 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 THREE**

**PRELUDE**

*Organist*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Peace Handbell Choir*

*“Joy to the World” – arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson*

**OPENING HYMN “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”**

*LSB 358 (v. 1-3, 13-15)*

- 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 “To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 “This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,



A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

*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 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. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** *Psalm 32:5*

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

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. *[John 20:19-23]*

**C Amen.**

Service of the Word

**INTROIT** *Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the  
government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name  
shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done  
marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have  
worked salvation for him.**

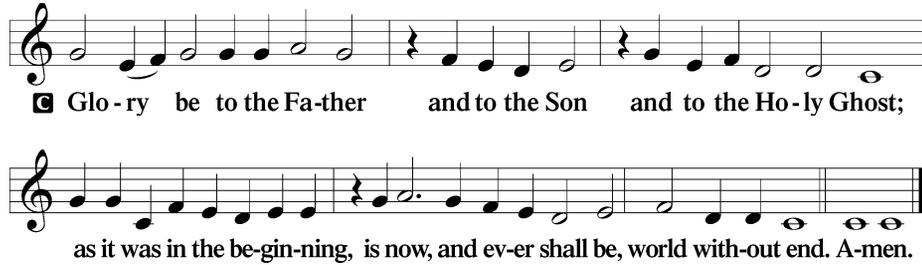
P The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed  
his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**C He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have  
seen the salvation of our God.**

P Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

## GLORIA PATRI

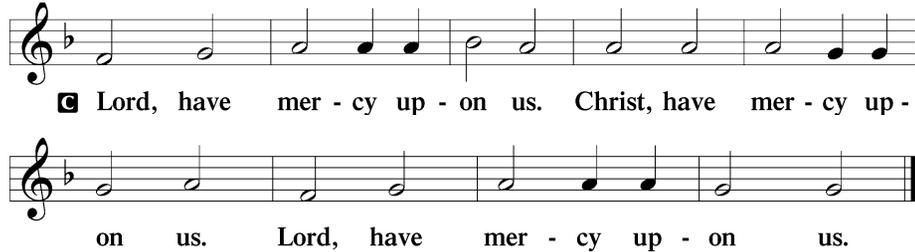
LSB 186



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## KYRIE *Mark 10:47*

LSB 186



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

LSB 187



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -  
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 189

**P** The Lord be with you.

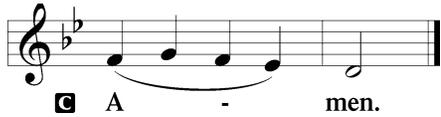
*2 Timothy 4:22*



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

**OLD TESTAMENT**

*Isaiah 52:7–10*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**

*Psalms 2*

P Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

**C The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers  
take counsel together, against the Lord and against his  
anointed, saying,**

P “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their  
cords from us.”

**C He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the LORD holds them in derision.**

P Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

**C “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”**

P I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are  
my Son; today I have begotten you.

**C Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.**

P You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them  
in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

**C Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

P Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

**C Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the  
way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all  
who take refuge in him.**

**EPISTLE**

*Hebrews 1*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God  
spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days  
he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir  
of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is  
the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his  
nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his  
power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the  
right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much  
superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more  
excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your  
kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup>And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the  
beginning,

and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up,

like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will have no end.”

<sup>13</sup>And to which of the angels has he ever said,

“Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

<sup>14</sup>Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for  
the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### ALLELUIA

*LSB 190*



### HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:1–18*

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



<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who

were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## NICENE CREED

*LSB 191*

**C I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down  
from heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin  
Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius  
Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the  
Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both  
the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is  
worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic  
Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of  
sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Of the Father's Love Begotten" LSB 384*

1 Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,

He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

3 This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,

And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
Text: Public domain

**SERMON** Rev. Dennis Wenzholz  
**“The Lord Has Bared His Holy Arm” Isaiah 52:7-10**

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:7*

**C Amen.**

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY** *Psalm 51:10-12* *LSB 192*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*[1 Timothy 2:1-4]*

Service of the Sacrament

**PREFACE**

*LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

[Psalm 136]

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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 195*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,

bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13*

*LSB 196*

**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.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*LSB 197*

**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 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*

**PAX DOMINI** *John 20:19*

*LSB 197*

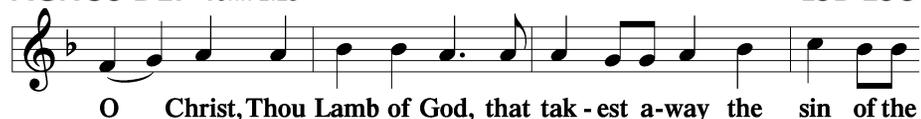
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



A - men.

**AGNUS DEI** *John 1:29*

*LSB 198*



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

**DISTRIBUTION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*“O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild” LSB 546*

- 1 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!  
For sinners You became a child.  
You came from heaven down to earth  
In human flesh through human birth.  
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
- 2 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!  
With God we now are reconciled.  
You have for all the ransom paid,  
Your Father’s righteous anger stayed.  
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
- 3 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!  
Joy fills the world which sin defiled.  
Whate’er we have belongs to You;  
O keep us faithful, strong, and true.  
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Frieda Pietsch, 1904–82, alt.  
Text: Public domain

*“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” LSB 393*

- 1 Infant holy,  
Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing,  
Little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging,  
Angels singing,  
Bells are ringing,  
Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping,  
 Shepherds keeping  
 Vigil till the morning new  
 Saw the glory,  
 Heard the story,  
 Tidings of a Gospel true.  
 Thus rejoicing,  
 Free from sorrow,  
 Praises voicing,  
 Greet the morrow:  
 Christ the child was born for you!  
 Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.; Polish Text: Public domain

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” *LSB 388*

*Refrain*

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
 Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
 Go tell it on the mountain  
 That Jesus Christ is born!*

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
 O’er silent flocks by night,  
 Behold, throughout the heavens  
 There shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
 When lo, above the earth  
 Rang out the angel chorus  
 That hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger  
 The humble Christ was born;

And God sent us salvation  
 That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**NUNC DIMITTIS** *Luke 2:29-32* *LSB 199*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

**THANKSGIVING** *Psalm 107:1* *LSB 200*

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  

 and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.



☐ A - men.

### SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



☐ And with thy spir - it.

A Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]



☐ Thanks be to God.

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

LSB 202

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.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

### CLOSING HYMN "Joy to the World" LSB 387

- Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Text: Public domain

### CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

Organist

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.