

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Dennis A. Wenholz

Rev. Khai N. Lee

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Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

January 22, 2023

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*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*

*“Celebration No. 1 in G” – Michael R. Keller*

**OPENING HYMN**

*“Praise to You, Giver of Life” (Tune: LSB 905)*

Praise to You, Giver of Life,  
Sharing with love and delight  
All that You are--  
Life in its loveliness,  
Pleasures all measureless,  
Giving Your very breath  
With all Your heart!

Children of heavenly grace,  
Each with a soul-- and a face,  
Born in Your heart,  
Sharing Your dignity,  
Shaped for discovery,  
Glimpsing eternity  
In every star!

Each one is precious to You.  
Each is a pro-mise in bloom.

Lives great and small,  
Children of every age,  
Each in Your image made,  
May we love unafraid,  
Father of all!

Words by Ken Bible Music: Felice de Giardini © 2008 by LNWhymns.com CCLI Song #5123245

*Stand*

## Confession and Absolution

*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.** Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** Psalms 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** Psalms 27:1-9

P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

C **When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

P Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

C **One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

P For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

C **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

P Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

C You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

P Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

### GLORIA PATRI

LSB 186

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

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

Glory be to God on high: 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*

And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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 9:1-4*

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### GRADUAL

*Psalm 27:10-14*

P For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

but the Lord will take me in.

**C Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.**

P Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

**C I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!**

P Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

### HYMN “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” LSB 740

1 I am Jesus’ little lamb,  
Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev’ry day the same,  
Even calls me by my name.

2 Day by day, at home, away,  
Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,  
Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go  
Where the quiet waters flow.

3 Who so happy as I am,  
Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?  
And when my short life is ended,  
By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast,  
There within His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941  
Text: Public domain

## EPISTLE

*1 Corinthians 1:10-18*

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA

*LSB 190*



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 4:12-25*

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



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup>When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup>And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the  
Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>the people dwelling in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of  
death,

on them a light has dawned."

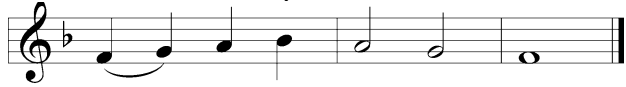
<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

<sup>18</sup>While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. <sup>24</sup>So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases

and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup>And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

### 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

*"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" – John Ylvisaker*

I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
To see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child  
With a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
To find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word,  
I was there to cheer you on.  
You were raised to praise the living Lord  
To whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time

And you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
From dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
Not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
Complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in  
And you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
With just one more surprise!

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
To see your life unfold.

**SERMON** Rev. Dennis Wenholz  
"Saved From The Shadows of Darkness" Matthew 4:12-25

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

**C Amen.**

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**  
"Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend" (Tune: LSB 862)

Lord Jesus Christ, the children's friend,  
To each of them Your presence send;  
Call them by name and keep them true  
In loving faith, dear Lord, to You.

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER:** *Darcie Majors*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

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

LSB 196

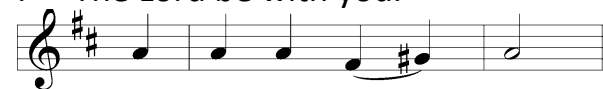
**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

**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 “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” LSB 594

- 1 God’s own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth’s treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free  
Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger:  
Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me  
Since my Baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood,  
Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood?
- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
Drop your ugly accusation,  
I am not so soon enticed.  
Now that to the font I’ve traveled,  
All your might has come unraveled,  
And, against your tyranny,  
God, my Lord, unites with me!
- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness

To inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes  
Faith’s assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine  
To make life immortal mine.

- 5 There is nothing worth comparing  
To this lifelong comfort sure!  
Open-eyed my grave is staring:  
Even there I’ll sleep secure.  
Though my flesh awaits its raising,  
Still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ;  
I’m a child of paradise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957  
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## CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

*Organist*

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### God Chose You ...

Choice is a divine gift to humankind.  
That means choice isn't a right.  
And death isn't a decision.  
It's everyone's inevitable destiny.  
You can't "choice" your way out of death.  
We won't keep our own deaths from happening  
by making anyone else's death happen.  
Thanks be to God Jesus displaces freedom **of**  
choice and replaces it with freedom **from**  
choice.  
The choice we need is not a choice we make  
but the choice we are.  
What saves, what gives life, is not choosing  
but being chosen.  
The choice we can't make, the one that  
matters most, is the one we don't have to.

God chose you, and that changes everything.

No matter who's left you alone, the Almighty Maker chose you.  
No matter what makes you afraid, the Lord God chose you.  
No matter why you feel ashamed, the Heavenly Father chose you.

God chose you into existence. Your body proves it. You are a privilege.  
God chose you into forgiveness. Jesus' body proclaims it. He is a gift.  
God chose you into making a difference.

Every neighbor portrays it. They are your invitation.

You're not an accident or an afterthought, even in sufferings or difficulties. You're special. No human life is a joke or a mistake, not even in surprise pregnancies or terminal diagnoses. Each one's precious, from fertilization to forever. None of us is hand-me-down or half-hearted, not embryos, not impaired persons, not elderly ones. We're all priceless, whatever our ages, abilities, and appearances.

God chose you to embody and to enact the sanctity of human lives.  
Christians advocate this kind of choice.

**"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit." (John 15:16)**

We are equipping **Lutherans** and their neighbors  
to be Gospel-motivated voices **For Life**



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