

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Dennis A. Wenholz

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Lenten Midweek Worship Service

March 29, 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.*

**LENTEN MIDWEEK SERIES 2023  
"CHRONICLES OF THE KING"**

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

Oh King, Kinsmen Redeemer  
Help me oh Lord.

I believe and trust that You and You alone are my Savior.  
Blot out my transgressions and wipe away my shame.  
Help me oh Lord, for there is no one to turn to except you.  
Amen.

**PASTORAL WELCOME**

**INVOCATION** *(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.

**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,

**FIFTH WEDNESDAY IN**



**LENT**

**C who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity or 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 return to the Lord.**

### OPENING HYMN

*“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” LSB 450 (verse 6-7)*

6 My Savior, be Thou near me  
When death is at my door;  
Then let Thy presence cheer me,  
Forsake me nevermore!

When soul and body languish,  
O leave me not alone,  
But take away mine anguish  
By virtue of Thine own!

7 Be Thou my consolation,  
My shield, when I must die;  
Remind me of Thy passion  
When my last hour draws nigh.  
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,  
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,  
My heart by faith enfold Thee.  
Who dieth thus dies well.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
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### 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 Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C Lord, 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.

Father in heaven, You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. Help us to know and trust that You and You alone is the One who forgives our sins and washes away our shame. In your Holy name we pray. Amen.

**C Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT**

*2 Chronicles 34:1-3; 35:20-27*

<sup>1</sup>Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. <sup>3</sup>For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images.

<sup>20</sup>After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates and Josiah went out to meet him. <sup>21</sup>But he sent envoys to him, saying, "What have we to do with each other, king of Judah? I am not coming against you this day, but against the house with which I am at war. And God has commanded me to hurry. Cease opposing God, who is with me, lest he destroy you." <sup>22</sup>Nevertheless, Josiah did not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight with him. He did not listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to fight in the plain of Megiddo. <sup>23</sup>And the archers shot King Josiah. And the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly wounded." <sup>24</sup>So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in his second chariot and brought him to Jerusalem. And he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem

mourned for Josiah. <sup>25</sup>Jeremiah also uttered a lament for Josiah; and all the singing men and singing women have spoken of Josiah in their laments to this day. They made these a rule in Israel; behold, they are written in the Laments. <sup>26</sup>Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his good deeds according to what is written in the Law of the LORD, <sup>27</sup>and his acts, first and last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

30

P I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

**C O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

P O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

**C Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.**

P For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**C As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."**

P By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

**C To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:**

P “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

**C Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!  
O LORD, be my helper!”**

P You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;  
you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

**C that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

#### **EPISTLE**

*Revelation 21:1-6b*

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

#### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 23:26-31*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

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

<sup>26</sup>And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup>And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup>But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ <sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ <sup>31</sup>For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

#### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”* LSB 440

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now  
On Your holy passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow  
For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
May the image cherish  
Of Your suff’ring, pain, and death  
That I may not perish.
- 2 Make me see Your great distress,  
Anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness  
And Your crucifixion;  
Make me see how scourge and rod,  
Spear and nails did wound You,  
How for them You died, O God,  
Who with thorns had crowned You.
- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone  
Make me see Your passion,  
But its cause to me make known  
And its termination.  
Ah! I also and my sin

Wrought Your deep affliction;  
This indeed the cause has been  
Of Your crucifixion.

- 4 Grant that I Your passion view  
With repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to You  
By unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun  
Ev’ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God’s only Son  
Suffered without measure?
- 5 If my sins give me alarm  
And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm;  
Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won  
By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son,  
God must have compassion!
- 6 Graciously my faith renew;  
Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from You,  
Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give You love for love!  
Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav’n above  
Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

**HOMILY**

Pastor Dennis Wenholz

**“Our Last Hope: Josiah”**

## OFFERTORY

*“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* LSB 805

△ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711    Text: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(stand)*

*After each petition:*

P Lord, in Your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

## 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 *“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”* LSB 702

- 1 My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray;  
Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!
- 2 May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart;  
My zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me,  
Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!
- 3 While life’s dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow’s tears away,

Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

- 4 When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87 Text: Public domain

## **MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES 2023:**

### **"CHRONICLES OF THE KING"**

*\*Sermon Titles and Readings are subject to change\**

### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

Worship services at **6:30 PM.**

**4/6 — Maundy Thursday: "Prepare Food: Hezekiah"**

*(2 Chronicles 30:1-5, 10-13, 22b-27;*

*Exodus 24:3-11; Psalm 116:12-19; Matt. 26: 17-30)*

**4/7 — Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

### **EASTER DAY SCHEDULE**

Sunrise service at **7 AM** and Easter Day Service at **9AM.**

**4/9 — Easter Vigil / Sunrise Service: "After The End"**

*(Ezekiel 37:1-14, 24-28; Psalm 16; Matthew 27:57-66)*

**4/9 — EASTER DAY: "Long Lives The King of Kings!"**