

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Dennis A. Wenholz

Rev. Khai N. Lee

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

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

"Jubilate, Amen" – Ruby Shaw Hollis

OPENING HYMN

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" LSB 556 (v. 1-4, 7)

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!
- 2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.



God

... is not far from each one of us.

Acts 17:27, NRSV

3 My own good works all came to naught,
No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.

4 But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.

7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me,
I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I Myself will be;
For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, and you are Mine,
And where I am you may remain;
The foe shall not divide us.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, 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 119:89–93; antiphon: v. 105*

P Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

C **Forever, O LORD, your word**

is firmly fixed in the heavens.

P Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

C **By your appointment they stand this day,**
for all things are your servants.

P If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.

C **I will never forget your precepts,**
for by them you have given me life.

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



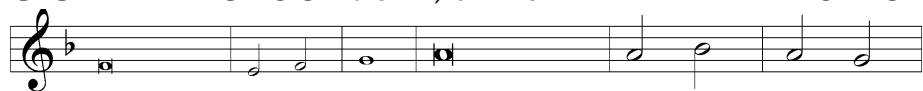
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



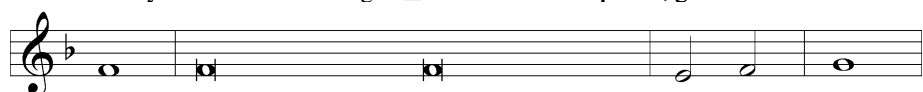
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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;



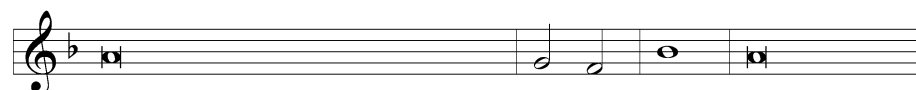
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



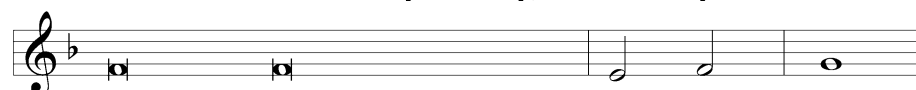
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



☐ A - men.

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 17:16–31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Psalms 66:8–20

P Bless our God, O peoples;

let the sound of his praise be heard,
**C who has kept our soul among the living
 and has not let our feet slip.**

P For you, O God, have tested us;
 you have tried us as silver is tried.

**C You brought us into the net;
 you laid a crushing burden on our backs;**

P you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire
 and through water; yet you have brought us out to a
 place of abundance.

**C I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
 I will perform my vows to you,**

P that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised
 when I was in trouble.

**C I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,
 with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
 I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

P Come and hear, all you who fear God,
 and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

**C I cried to him with my mouth,
 and high praise was on my tongue.**

P If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
 the Lord would not have listened.

**C But truly God has listened;
 he has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

P Blessèd be God, because he has not rejected my prayer
 or removed his steadfast love from me!

EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for
 what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for
 righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of
 them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the
 Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to
 anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in
 you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good
 conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who
 revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to
 shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that
 should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous
 for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put
 to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which
 he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because
 they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in
 the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which
 a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through
 water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you,
 not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to
 God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus
 Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand
 of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been
 subjected to him.

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*John 14:15–21*

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



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

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

“Children of the Heavenly Father” LSB 725

- 1 Children of the heav’nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e’er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958 Text: Public domain

SERMON

Rev. Dennis Wenholz

**“IN CHRIST:
THERE IS NO IDENTITY CRISIS!”**

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]*

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

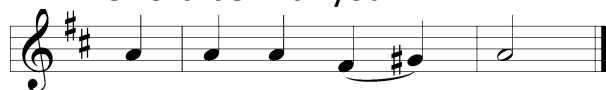
LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13* *LSB 196*

**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

P The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

A Bless we the Lord.



☐ Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

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.

LSB 201

2 Timothy 4:22

[Psalm 103:1]

LSB 202

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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