



## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

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The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 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.*

### CREATIVE WORSHIP

#### **As We Gather: Calling A Faithful Pastor**

O Gracious Father, You led Your holy apostles to ordain ministers for the proclamation of Your Word and the Faithful administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Grant to this congregation the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a suitable pastor according to Your will for the blessing of Your Church in this place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### **PRELUDE**

*Organist*

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Peace Handbell Choir*

*"How Firm a Foundation" – arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson*

#### **OPENING HYMN "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" LSB 417**

- 1 Alleluia, song of gladness,  
Voice of joy that cannot die;  
Alleluia is the anthem  
Ever raised by choirs on high;  
In the house of God abiding  
Thus they sing eternally.
- 2 Alleluia, thou resoundest,  
True Jerusalem and free;  
Alleluia, joyful mother,

All thy children sing with thee,  
But by Babylon's sad waters  
Mourning exiles now are we.

- 3 Alleluia cannot always  
Be our song while here below;  
Alleluia, our transgressions  
Make us for a while forgo;  
For the solemn time is coming  
When our tears for sin must flow.
- 4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,  
Grant us, blessèd Trinity,  
At the last to keep Thine Easter  
With Thy faithful saints on high;  
There to Thee forever singing  
Alleluia joyfully.

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

### INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- 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.**
- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C **We confess, gracious God, that we groan not only because of sin in the world, but our failure to trust You for all that we need. We have not waited patiently; we have demanded reasons from You; we have sought to**

**excuse ourselves. Yet You have given us the Spirit, who intercedes for us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to hope not in ourselves but in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

- P The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where you were redeemed as God's beloved children. 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.**

### KYRIE

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For the peace from above and for our salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L 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 mercy.**
- L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C **Amen.**

### COLLECT

- P Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT**

*Isaiah 44:6–8*

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

“I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me,  
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will  
happen.

<sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**

*Romans 8:18–27*

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free

from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

*19:57–64*

P The LORD is my portion;  
I promise to keep your words.

**C I entreat your favor with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to your promise.**

P When I think on my ways,  
I turn my feet to your testimonies;

**C I hasten and do not delay  
to keep your commandments.**

P Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,  
I do not forget your law.

**C At midnight I rise to praise you,  
because of your just and righteous decrees.**

P I am a companion of all who fear you,  
of those who keep your precepts.

**C The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes!**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43*

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

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup>but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the

age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE HYMN** *“How Firm a Foundation” LSB 728*

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
- 3 “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!
- 4 “When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
- 5 “Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove  
My sov’rign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt. Text: Public domain

## MESSAGE

Pastor James F. Larsen

**“No Wheat Will Be Lost – No Weeds Will Be Saved”**

**St. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

## 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 ✠ everlasting. Amen.

## OFFERTORY

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

△ 1 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

*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

**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.

**HYMN** *“All Depends on Our Possessing”* LSB 732

- 1 All depends on our possessing  
God's abundant grace and blessing,  
Though all earthly wealth depart.  
They who trust with faith unshaken  
By their God are not forsaken  
And will keep a dauntless heart.
- 2 He who to this day has fed me  
And to many joys has led me  
Is and ever shall be mine.  
He who ever gently schools me,

He who daily guides and rules me  
Will remain my help divine.

3 Many spend their lives in fretting  
Over trifles and in getting  
Things that have no solid ground.  
I shall strive to win a treasure  
That will bring me lasting pleasure  
And that now is seldom found.

4 When with sorrow I am stricken,  
Hope anew my heart will quicken;  
All my longing shall be stilled.  
To His loving-kindness tender  
Soul and body I surrender,  
For on God alone I build.

5 Well He knows what best to grant me;  
All the longing hopes that haunt me,  
Joy and sorrow, have their day.  
I shall doubt His wisdom never;  
As God wills, so be it ever;  
I commit to Him my way.

6 If my days on earth He lengthen,  
God my weary soul will strengthen;  
All my trust in Him I place.  
Earthly wealth is not abiding,  
Like a stream away is gliding;  
Safe I anchor in His grace.

Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### CLOSING PRAYER

P O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life,  
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and

the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and  
our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a  
safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

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.

**C Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN

*“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” LSB 680*

1 Thine the amen Thine the praise  
Alleluias angels raise  
Thine the everlasting head  
Thine the breaking of the bread  
Thine the glory Thine the story  
Thine the harvest then the cup  
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

2 Thine the life eternally  
Thine the promise let there be  
Thine the vision Thine the tree  
All the earth on bended knee  
Gone the nailing gone the railing  
Gone the pleading gone the cry  
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted  
high.

3 Thine the truly Thine the yes  
Thine the table we the guest  
Thine the mercy all from Thee

Thine the glory yet to be  
Then the ringing and the singing  
Then the end of all the war  
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize  
Thine the wonder full surprise  
Thine the banquet then the praise  
Then the justice of Thy ways  
Thine the glory Thine the story  
Then the welcome to the least  
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

5 Thine the glory in the night  
No more dying only light  
Thine the river Thine the tree  
Then the Lamb eternally  
Then the holy holy holy  
Celebration jubilee  
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only  
Thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009  
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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Organist*