



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 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.

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

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing" – arr. by Kevin McChesney

OPENING HYMN "Earth and All Stars" LSB 817

- 1 Earth and all stars!
Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Oh, victory!
Loud shouting army!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Refrain

*He has done marvelous things.
I too will praise Him with a new song!*

- 2 Hail, wind, and rain!
Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Flowers and trees!
Loud rustling dry leaves!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*
- 3 Trumpet and pipes!
Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre!
Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*
- 4 Engines and steel!
Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams!
Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*
- 5 Classrooms and labs!
Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band!
Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*
- 6 Knowledge and truth!
Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son!
Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

- 7 Children of God,
Dying and rising,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Heaven and earth,
Hosts everlasting,
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009
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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *2 Samuel 22:47; Psalm 18:3, 6, 46*

P The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,

C **and exalted be the God of my salvation.**

P I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,

C **and I am saved from my enemies.**

P In my distress I called upon the LORD;

C **to my God I cried for help.**

P From His temple He heard my voice,

C **and my cry to Him reached His ears.**

P The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,

C **and exalted be the God of my salvation.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us consider our unworthiness to come before almighty God and confess our sins to Him in the presence of one another.

We confess, Creator Lord, that like Job, we become angry at times with what You have allowed in our lives and we have wondered why.

C **Forgive our pride and turn us to humbly rely on Your gracious plans for us.**

P We confess, Savior Lord, that unlike Paul, we have neglected people around us who have not accepted Your sacrifice for them.

C Forgive our self-centeredness and inaction, and move us to tell them the Good News as You provide opportunity.

P We confess, Spirit of truth, that like Peter, we have failed to trust You in all things and have been overwhelmed by the storms of life.

C Forgive our weakness of faith and enable us to follow where You lead the way.

P All things in heaven and earth are under God's rule. His almighty power was shown chiefly in sending His Son into this fallen world to destroy the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Your pride, self-centeredness, weakness of faith, and anything else that would separate you from His great love have been forgiven for Jesus' sake. 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.

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; 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

Job 38:4–18

⁴[The Lord said to Job:] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?”

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷when the morning stars sang together

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors

when it burst out from the womb,

⁹when I made clouds its garment

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed limits for it

and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,
¹³that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?
¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.
¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld,
and their uplifted arm is broken.
¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 10:5–17*

⁵Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of

all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *18:1–16*

P I love you, O LORD, my strength.
C The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
P I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.
C The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me;
P the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.
C In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.
P Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry.
C Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him.

P He bowed the heavens and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.

**C He rode on a cherub and flew;
he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.**

P He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him,
thick clouds dark with water.

**C Out of the brightness before him
hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.**

P The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Most
High uttered his voice, hailstones and coals of fire.

**C And he sent out his arrows and scattered them;
he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.**

P Then the channels of the sea were seen, and the
foundations of the world were laid bare at your rebuke,
O LORD, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

**C He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 14:22–33*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE HYMN *"Eternal Father, Strong to Save" LSB 717*

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

2a O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep
And calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

3a Most Holy Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace:

O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

- 4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Our people shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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MESSAGE

**“Unsinkable Faith”
St. Matthew 14:22-33**

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

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” LSB 883 (v.6)

- △ 6 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.

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 “I Know My Faith Is Founded” LSB 587

- 1 I know my faith is founded
On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing,

Unmoved I stand on His sure Word.
Our reason cannot fathom
The truth of God profound;
Who trusts in human wisdom
Relies on shifting ground.
God's Word is all-sufficient,
It makes divinely sure;
And trusting in its wisdom,
My faith shall rest secure.

- 2 Increase my faith, dear Savior,
For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure
And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with You beside me,
I shall be undismayed;
And led by Your good Spirit,
I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Savior,
A firmer faith bestow;
Then I shall bid defiance
To ev'ry evil foe.
- 3 In faith, Lord, let me serve You;
Though persecution, grief, and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me,
Let me a steadfast trust retain;
And then at my departure,
Lord, take me home to You,
Your riches to inherit
As all You said holds true.
In life and death, Lord, keep me
Until Your heav'n I gain,
Where I by Your great mercy
The end of faith attain.

CLOSING PRAYER

- P Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; 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

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" LSB 722

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me
From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor
I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior,
And lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages,
Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding,
In peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen
My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Organist