

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

---

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 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*

*"Celebration No. 5 in C" – Michael Keller*

**BAPTISM HYMN**

*"Baptized into Your Name Most Holy" LSB 590*

- 1 Baptized into Your name most holy,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among Your saints, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
Your Spirit now shall live within.
- 2 My loving Father, here You take me  
To be henceforth Your child and heir.

“**TEACHER,**  
*we know that you*  
*are* **TRUE**  
*and* **TEACH**  
*the way of*  
**GOD**  
*truthfully ...”*

MATTHEW 22:16, ESV

My faithful Savior, here You make me  
The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat'ning clouds around I see.

3 My faithful God, You fail me never;  
Your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever  
If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.

4 All that I am and love most dearly—  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely;  
Help me Your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.

Text: Johann Jacob Rambach, 1693–1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

## HOLY BAPTISM

*LSB 268-271*

Nixon James Moore

## INVOCATION

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

**C Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 121:2, 7*

P My help comes from the LORD,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

P The LORD will keep you from all evil;

**C He will keep your life.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.**

P He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## PSALM

96

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

**C Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

P Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

**C For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.**

P For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.

**C Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

P Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

**C Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

P Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth!

**C Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the  
world is established; it shall never be moved; he will  
judge the peoples with equity."**

P Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

**C let the field exult, and everything in it!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

P before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge  
the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and  
the peoples in his faithfulness.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
forever. 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, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy  
on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so  
pass through things temporal that we lose not the  
things eternal; 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 45:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped,  
to subdue nations before him  
and to loose the belts of kings,  
to open doors before him  
that gates may not be closed:

<sup>2</sup>"I will go before you  
and level the exalted places,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and the hoards in secret places,  
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob,

and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name,  
I name you, though you do not know me.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other,  
besides me there is no God;  
I equip you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>that people may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is none besides me;  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
I make well-being and create calamity,  
I am the LORD, who does all these things.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

#### **EPISTLE**

*1 Thessalonians 1:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.  
<sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for all of you,  
constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup>remembering  
before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of  
love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For  
we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen  
you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not only in word, but  
also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.  
You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for  
your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord,  
for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of  
the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the  
believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For not only has the  
word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and

Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so  
that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup>For they themselves report  
concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and  
how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true  
God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised  
from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to  
come.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

#### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 22:15–22*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-  
second chapter.

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

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to  
entangle [Jesus] in his talk. <sup>16</sup>And they sent their disciples to  
him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know  
that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and  
you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not  
swayed by appearances. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it  
lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of  
their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you  
hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin for the tax.” And they  
brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Whose  
likeness and inscription is this?” <sup>21</sup>They said, “Caesar’s.” Then  
he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that  
are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When  
they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went  
away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## MESSAGE HYMN

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” LSB 802*

- 1 Immortal, invisible,  
God only wise,  
In light inaccessible  
hid from our eyes,  
Most blessèd, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting,  
and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting,  
Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains  
high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains  
of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life Thou givest—  
to both great and small—  
In all life Thou livest,  
the true Life of all;  
We blossom and flourish  
as leaves on the tree  
And wither and perish—  
but naught changes Thee.
- 4 Great Father of glory,  
pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee,  
all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render:

O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor  
of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Text: Public domain

## MESSAGE

**“The Right Image Is Everything!”  
St. Matthew 22:15-22**

## 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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY

*“Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings” LSB 782 (v. 1, 4)*

- 1 Gracious God, You send great blessings  
New each morning all our days.  
For Your mercies never ending,  
For Your love we offer praise. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

*Lord, we pray that we, Your people  
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,  
Through the sharing of Your blessings  
May bring glory to Your name.*

- △ 4 Heav'nly Father, may our caring  
Bear the imprint of Your grace;  
With the Son and Holy Spirit,  
Praise be Yours in ev'ry place! *Refrain*

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946 Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000368

## 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 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" LSB 528

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad,  
The honors of Thy name.
- 3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.
- 4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;  
He sets the pris'ner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood avails for me.
- 5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own  
Your God, ye fallen race.  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
Be justified by grace.
- 6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;  
The Lamb of God was slain.  
His soul was once an off'ring made  
For ev'ry soul of man.

7 To God all glory, praise, and love  
Be now and ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above,  
The Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, 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

*“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” LSB 819*

1 Sing praise to God, the highest good,  
The author of creation,  
The God of love who understood  
Our need for His salvation.  
With healing balm our souls He fills  
And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:  
To God all praise and glory!

2 What God's almighty pow'r has made,  
In mercy He is keeping.  
By morning glow or evening shade

His eye is never sleeping.  
Within the kingdom of His might  
All things are just and good and right:  
To God all praise and glory!

3 We sought the Lord in our distress;  
O God, in mercy hear us.  
Our Savior saw our helplessness  
And came with peace to cheer us.  
For this we thank and praise the Lord,  
Who is by one and all adored:  
To God all praise and glory!

4 He never shall forsake His flock,  
His chosen generation;  
He is their refuge and their rock,  
Their peace and their salvation.  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
He leads His own, His chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!

5 All who confess Christ's holy name,  
Give God the praise and glory.  
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim  
Aloud the wondrous story.  
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne,  
For God is God, and He alone:  
To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt. Text: Public domain

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

*Organist*