



I COUNT  
EVERYTHING AS LOSS  
BECAUSE  
OF THE  
SURPASSING  
WORTH  
OF KNOWING  
CHRIST  
JESUS  
MY LORD.

PHILIPPIANS 3:8, ESV

## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

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The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 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*

*"Celebration No. 1 in G" – Michael R. Keller*

#### **OPENING HYMN** *"Alleluia! Let Praises Ring" LSB 822*

- 1 Alleluia! Let praises ring!  
To God the Father let us bring  
Our songs of adoration.  
To Him through everlasting days  
Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise,  
Whose hand sustains creation.  
Singing, ringing:  
Holy, holy,  
God is holy;

Spread the story  
Of our God, the Lord of glory.

- 2 Alleluia! Let praises ring!  
Unto the Lamb of God we sing,  
In whom we are elected.  
He bought His Church with His own blood,  
He cleansed her in that blessed flood,  
And as His bride selected.  
Holy, holy  
Is our union  
And communion.  
His befriending  
Gives us joy and peace unending.

- 3 Alleluia! Let praises ring!  
Unto the Holy Ghost we sing  
For our regeneration.  
The saving faith in us He wrought  
And us unto the Bridegroom brought,  
Made us His chosen nation.  
Glory! Glory!  
Joy eternal,  
Bliss supernal;  
There is manna  
And an endless, glad hosanna.

- 4 Alleluia! Let praises ring!  
Unto our triune God we sing;  
Blest be His name forever!  
With angel hosts let us adore  
And sing His praises evermore  
For all His grace and favor!  
Singing, ringing:

Holy, holy,  
God is holy;  
Spread the story  
Of our God, the Lord of glory!

Text: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Text: Public domain

### INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 80:7, 18*

P Restore us, O God of hosts;

C **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

P Then we shall not turn back from You;

C **give us life, and we will call upon Your name!**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

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 May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us,  
bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus  
Christ.

**C Amen.**

### PSALM

*80:7–19*

P Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**C You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

P You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.

**C The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.**

P It sent out its branches to the sea  
and its shoots to the River.

**C Why then have you broken down its walls,  
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

P The boar from the forest ravages it,  
and all that move in the field feed on it.

**C Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven,  
and see; have regard for this vine,**

P the stock that your right hand planted,  
and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.

**C They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;  
may they perish at the rebuke of your face!**

P But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,  
the son of man whom you have made strong for  
yourself!

**C Then we shall not turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call upon your name!**

P Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!  
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**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.

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of  
sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject  
Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your  
salvation; 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 5:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
<sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
and he looked for it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.  
<sup>3</sup>And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.  
<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard,  
that I have not done in it?  
When I looked for it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?  
<sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.  
<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and briars and thorns shall grow up;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah

are his pleasant planting;  
and he looked for justice,  
but behold, bloodshed;  
for righteousness,  
but behold, an outcry!

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

## EPISTLE

*Philippians 3:4b–14*

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 21:33–46*

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

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

<sup>33</sup>[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. <sup>34</sup>When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup>And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup>When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup>And the

one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MESSAGE HYMN** *“Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven” TLH 32*

- 1 Redeemed, restored, forgiven,  
Thro' Jesus' precious blood,  
Heirs of His home in heaven,  
Oh, praise our pard'ning God!  
Praise Him in tuneful measures  
Who gave His Son to die;  
Praise Him whose sev'nfold treasures  
Enrich and sanctify.
- 2 Once on the dreary mountain  
We wandered far and wide,  
Far from the cleansing fountain,  
Far from the pierced side;  
But Jesus sought and found us  
And washed our guilt away;  
With cords of love He bound us  
To be His own for aye.
- 3 Dear Master, Thine the glory  
Of each recovered soul.  
Ah! who can tell the story  
Of love that made us whole?

Not ours, not ours the merit;  
Be Thine alone the praise,  
And ours a thankful spirit  
To serve Thee all our days.

- 4 Now keep us, Holy Savior,  
In Thy true love and fear  
And grant us of Thy favor  
The grace to persevere  
Till, in Thy new creation,  
Earth's time-long travail o'er,  
We find our full salvation,  
And praise Thee evermore.

#### MESSAGE

**“Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven, and Crowned”  
Philippians 3:4b-14**

#### 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  $\text{†}$  everlasting. Amen.**

#### OFFERTORY

*“Take My Life and Let It Be” LSB 783 (v. 1, 4)*

- 1 Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 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** *“What Is the World to Me”* LSB 730

- 1 What is the world to me  
With all its vaunted pleasure  
When You, and You alone,  
Lord Jesus, are my treasure!  
You only, dearest Lord,  
My soul’s delight shall be;  
You are my peace, my rest.  
What is the world to me!
- 2 The world seeks to be praised  
And honored by the mighty  
Yet never once reflects  
That they are frail and flighty.  
But what I truly prize  
Above all things is He,  
My Jesus, He alone.  
What is the world to me!
- 3 The world seeks after wealth  
And all that mammon offers  
Yet never is content  
Though gold should fill its coffers.  
I have a higher good,  
Content with it I’ll be:

My Jesus is my wealth.  
What is the world to me!

- 4 What is the world to me!  
My Jesus is my treasure,  
My life, my health, my wealth,  
My friend, my love, my pleasure,  
My joy, my crown, my all,  
My bliss eternally.  
Once more, then, I declare:  
What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

**CLOSING PRAYER (COLLECT FOR PEACE)**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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** *“O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace”* LSB 693

- 1 O Holy Spirit, grant us grace  
That we our Lord and Savior  
In faith and fervent love embrace

And truly serve Him ever.  
The hour of death cannot bring loss  
When we are sheltered by the cross  
That canceled our transgressions.

2 Help us that we Thy saving Word  
In faithful hearts may treasure;  
Let e'er that Bread of Life afford  
New grace in richest measure.  
O make us die to ev'ry sin,  
Each day create new life within,  
That fruits of faith may flourish.

3 And when our earthly race is run,  
Death's bitter hour impending,  
Then may Thy work in us begun  
Continue till life's ending,  
Until we gladly may commend  
Our souls into our Savior's hand,  
The crown of life obtaining.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532-99; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851-1929, alt. Text: Public domain

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Organist*