



... the bridegroom came,
AND THOSE WHO WERE READY
went with him into the
wedding banquet ...

Matthew 25:10, NRSV

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 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

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

– arr. by Don Michael Dicie

BAPTISM HYMN *"See This Wonder in the Making" LSB 593*

- 1 See this wonder in the making:
God Himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in His keeping,
His to be, awake or sleeping.
- 2 Miracle each time it happens
As the door to heaven opens
And the Father beams, "Belovèd,
Heir of gifts a king would covet!"

3 Far more tender than a mother,
Far more caring than a father,
God, into Your arms we place him/her/them,
With Your love and peace embrace him/her/them.

4 Here we bring a child of nature;
Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter,
Born again by Word and water.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008
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HOLY BAPTISM

LSB 268-271

McKenzie Lara

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD?

C Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

P But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

C For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.

P At midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."

C The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

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. Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait.

C We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. Forgive us.

P As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.

C We have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.

P As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with You.

C We come to think the day will never come when You make all things new, and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive us.

P But let justice roll down like waters,

C and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

P And so we will always be with the Lord.

C Therefore encourage one another with these words.

P In His parable, Jesus reminds His people to “watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” In our watch and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. 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.

PSALM

70

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me!

O LORD, make haste to help me!

C Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life! Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire my hurt!

P Let them turn back because of their shame who say, “Aha, Aha!”

C May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”

P But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

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.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Amos 5:18–24

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why would you have the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, and not light,

¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,

or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,

and a serpent bit him.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in

the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1–13

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” LSB 515 (Tune: TLH 72)

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience
Their cross and suff’rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O’er this benighted sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth’s redemption
That sets Your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.
Text: Public domain

MESSAGE

**“Be Prepared for the Lord's Coming!”
St. Matthew 25:1-13**

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 ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERTORY “Create in Me” LSB 956

- 1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12 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 “Almighty Father, Bless the Word” LSB 923

- 1 Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!
- 2 We praise You for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heav’n appear.
- △ 3 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 (sts. 1–2): Church Poetry, 1823, Philadelphia, alt.; (st. 3): Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Text: Public domain

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

“Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment” LSB 511 (Tune: LSB 621)

- 1 Herald, sound the note of judgment,
Warning us of right and wrong,
Turning us from sin and sadness
Till once more we sing the song. *Refrain*

Refrain

Sound the trumpet!

Tell the message:

Christ, the Savior king, is come!

- 2 Herald, sound the note of gladness;
Tell the news that Christ is here;
Make a pathway through the desert
For the one who brings God near. *Refrain*

- 3 Herald, sound the note of pardon—
Those repenting are forgiv’n;
God receives His wayward children,
And to them new life is giv’n. *Refrain*

- 4 Herald, sound the note of triumph;
Christ has come to share our life,
Bringing God’s own love and power,
Granting vict’ry in our strife. *Refrain*

Text: Moir A. J. Waters, 1906–80

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Organist