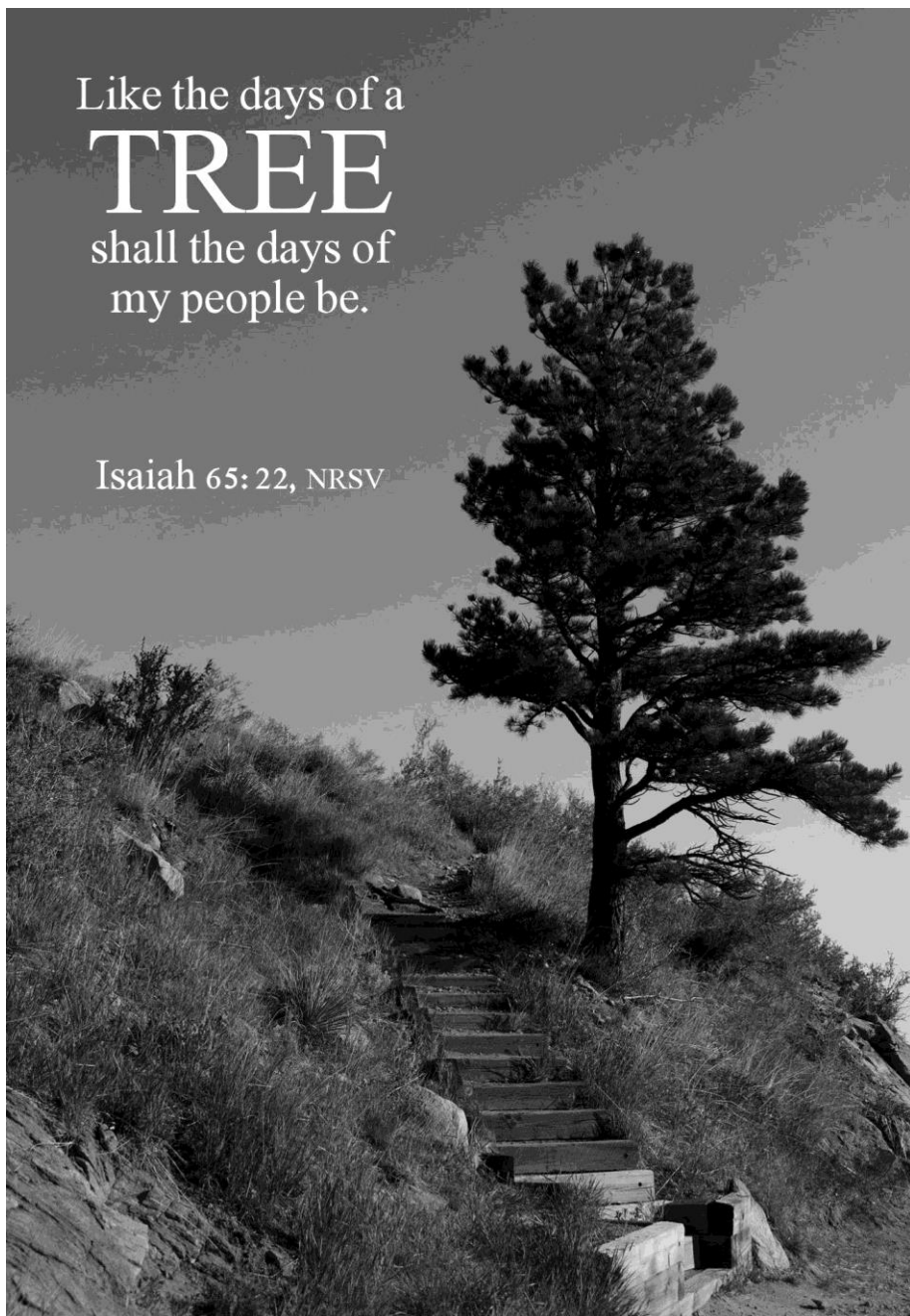


Like the days of a
TREE
shall the days of
my people be.

Isaiah 65: 22, NRSV



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 26, 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

*"Heaven Is My Home" – Arthur Sullivan
Laura Shaghoian, pianist*

OPENING HYMN

"Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" LSB 811

- 1 Oh, that I had a thousand voices
To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be,
What great things God has done for me.

- 2 O all you pow'rs that He implanted,
 Arise, keep silence now no more;
 Put forth the strength that God has granted!
 Your noblest work is to adore.
 O soul and body, join to raise
 With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.
- 3 You forest leaves so green and tender
 That dance for joy in summer air,
 You meadow grasses, bright and slender,
 You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
 You live to show God's praise alone.
 Join me to make His glory known.
- 4 All creatures that have breath and motion,
 That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
 Come, share with me my heart's devotion,
 Help me to sing God's praises high.
 My utmost pow'rs can never quite
 Declare the wonders of His might.
- 5 Creator, humbly I implore You
 To listen to my earthly song
 Until that day when I adore You,
 Together with the angel throng
 And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing
 Eternal anthems to my King.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000368

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Let us confess our unworthiness and ask His grace and mercy.
- Through Ezekiel, God said that He would “search for My sheep and will seek them out.”
- C **We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.**
- P Paul wrote that “God has put all things in subjection under [Christ's] feet.”
- C **We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.**
- P Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others—the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.
- C **We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.**
- P Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who is the one who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. 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. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM*95:1–7a*

- P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- C Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**
- P For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- C In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.**
- P The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
- C Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**
- P For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
- 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.
Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your
Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to
wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the
kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of
the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.
- C Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT*Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24*

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will

bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . .

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the

Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31–46

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and

you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE HYMN

“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” LSB 848

- 1 Lord, whose love through humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy’s perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose
Ev’ry gift that You impart.
- 2 Still Your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.

- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,
Till Your love’s revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness,
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving,
Your abundant life to share.

- 4 Called by worship to Your service,
Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom
May Your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt.
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MESSAGE

**“Dare to Dream of Heaven's Glories”
Isaiah 65:17-25**

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

“The Temple Rang with Golden Coins” LSB 787 (verse 5)

5 Lord, help us all, with You, to yield
Whatever love demands
And freely give, as You have giv’n,
With open hearts and hands.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007
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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 “Thine Forever, God of Love” LSB 687

- 1 Thine forever, God of love!
Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be
Here and in eternity!
- 2 Thine forever! Oh, how blest
They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav’nly friend,
O defend us to the end!
- 3 Thine forever, Lord of Life!
Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the life, the truth, the way,
Guide us to the realms of day.
- 4 Thine forever! Shepherd, keep
These Thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath Thy care,
Let us all Thy goodness share.
- 5 Thine forever! Thou our guide,
All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv’n;
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav’n.

Text: Mary F. Maude, 1819–1913 Text: Public domain

CLOSING PRAYER

P Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour You bore our sins in Your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, Your servants, with all others who devoutly remember Your blessed passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and through Your grace eternal glory in the life to come, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You live and reign, 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

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” LSB 350

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!

- 3 My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Organist