



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

December 25, 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.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Responsive Prayer 1, LSB page 282

Lessons and Carols

ORGAN PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace Handbell Choir

"Joy to the World" – arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

OPENING HYMN

387

"Joy to the World"

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Text: Public domain

THE INVOCATION

- P In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

THE OPENING VERSICLES

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- L Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,
C have mercy and hear us.

THE 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.

THE 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.

THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER: *Morning*

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- L I cry to You, O Lord;
C in the morning my prayer comes before You.
- L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- L My mouth is filled with Your praise,

C and with Your glory all the day.

L Every day I will bless You

C and praise Your name forever and ever.

L By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,

C O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

L Bless the Lord, O my soul;

C and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

L He redeems your life from the pit

C and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C let my cry come to You.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Psalm 98

380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;

With the_angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" *Refrain*

Refrain

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*
- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Text: Public domain

THE SECOND LESSON

HYMN "Angels from the Realms of Glory" **# 367**

St. Luke 1:26-38

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain*

Refrain

*Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

△ 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
Text: Public domain

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 62:10-12

HYMN *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* **# 366**

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-76, alt. Text: Public domain

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

HYMN *"Once in Royal David's City"* **# 376**

1 Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:

Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt. Text: Public domain

THE FIFTH LESSON

HYMN "Away in a Manger"

Isaiah 9:2-7

365

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Text: Public domain

THE SIXTH LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French
Text: Public domain

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

391 (Tune: LSB 395)

“Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn”

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn,
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory!
His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption’s story!
My soul, extol
God’s great favor;
Bless Him ever
For salvation;
Give Him praise and adoration!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937 Text: Public domain

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

HYMN

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

386

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.

Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

- 3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father’s grace divine.
Death was reigning o’er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav’nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav’nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt. Text: Public domain

THE THEME TEXT

St. Luke 2:1-20

HYMN

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undeified,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?

Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

- 2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933 Text: Public domain

THE EIGHTH LESSON

St. John 1:1-14

THE CLOSING PRAYER: *Morning* p. 283

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE BLESSING

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

390

"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.
- 2 To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.
- 3 We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Text: German, 17th cent.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

ORGAN POSTLUDE