



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 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

"Three French Carols" – Brian Tervo

OPENING HYMN

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" LSB 344

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.
- △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. Composite 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 27:13–14; 130:5*

- P I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
- C Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**
- P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
- C and in His word I hope.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.
- C Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!**

- P Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!
- C If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.**
- P But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.
- C Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.**
- P Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.
- C Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.**
- P As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our home in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.**

PSALM

85

- P LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**
- P You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.
- C Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!**

P Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**C Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

**C Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

**C Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

P Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**C Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

P Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

**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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of
Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be
enabled to serve You with pure minds; 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

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
 and all flesh shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
⁶A voice says, “Cry!”
 And I said, “What shall I cry?”
 All flesh is grass,
 and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
 surely the people are grass.
⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
 but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 “Behold your God!”
¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
 he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

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

EPISTLE

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
 “Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
 who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” LSB 347

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.”
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;

God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

- 3 Hark, the herald’s voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o’er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

MESSAGE

**“A Voice of Comfort”
Isaiah 40:1-11**

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357 (verse 1)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Shirley Kincheloe

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 “Prepare the Royal Highway” LSB 343

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: *Refrain*

Refrain

*Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God’s Word!*

- 2 God’s people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

- 3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! *Refrain*
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000368

CLOSING PRAYER

- P Lord God our Father, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son 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 “Hark the Glad Sound” LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Text: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Organist