



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

Advent Midweek Worship Service

December 13, 2023

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Responsive Prayer 1, LSB page 282

Silent Prayer / Pre-Service Music / The Prelude

The Hymn of Invocation

343

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

- 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

The Invocation

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

The Opening Versicles

- 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: *Evening*

- L Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,
C **and grant us Your salvation.**

L Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness;
C **and let Your saints shout for joy.**

L Lord, keep this nation under Your care,
C **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

p. 282

p. 283

L Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
C for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.

L Let the peoples praise You, O God;
C let all the peoples praise You!

L For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
C and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

L Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C and renew a right spirit within me.

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C let my cry come to You.

The Collect of the Day

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.

The Psalm of the Day

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.**

The Scripture Lessons (*sit*) **Matthew 3:2; Mark 1:14–15**

²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

The Hymn of the Day

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

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

The Sermon

“Prepare the Way: Repent!”
St. Matthew 3:2; St. Mark 1:14-15

The Offertory Hymn (*stand*)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

357 (v. 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

The Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

The Closing Prayer: ***Evening***

p. 284

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.**

The Closing Hymn **# 334 (v. 1, 3, 4, 6) (Tune: LSB 642)**
"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.
- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning;
You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.
- 4 Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessed hope to those

Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Text: Public domain

Silent Prayer / The Postlude



MIDWEEK SERVICE

December 20

6:00 pm = Soup Supper

7:00 pm = Worship

LIVING NATIVITY

December 21, 22

6:00 pm – 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24

7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Monday, December 25

9:00 am