



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 20, 2023

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Responsive Prayer 1, LSB page 282

Silent Prayer / Pre-Service Music / The Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace Handbell Choir

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" – arr. by Douglas Wagner

The Hymn of Invocation

352

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. 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

L Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,

C **have mercy and hear us.**

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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*

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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.**

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.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Psalm of the Day **Psalm 126**

P When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

C Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

P The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

**C Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!**

P Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

C He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

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 Holy Gospel

Luke 1:18, 34

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

The Hymn of the Day

354

"Arise, O Christian People"

1 Arise, O Christian people!

Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.

To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.

2 Prepare the way before Him;

Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him,
This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.

3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord's delight.

4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt. Text: Public domain

The Sermon

“Prepare the Way: Believe!”
St. Luke 1:18, 34

The Offertory Hymn **# 357 (verse 1)**
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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 Cantionum 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 **Tune # 883**

“We Wait, We Wait for Jesus Come!”

B. J. Fouts | Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church | Hebron, KS

1 We wait, we wait for Jesus. Come!
We wait, we wait for God's own Son.
We wait, we wait for Yeshua!
We wait to sing alleluia!

2 Keep watch! Keep watch; the Bridegroom's late.
Keep watch! Keep watch; He nears the gate.
Keep watch! Keep watch; your lamps keep trimmed.
Keep watch so you may enter in.

- 3 “Keep watch! Keep watch!” The Lord did say.
Keep watch! Keep watch while He’s away.
Keep watch! Keep watch; you know not when!
Keep watch until He comes again.
- 4 Well done! Well done, my faithful sheep!
Well done! Well done, my words you keep.
Well done! Well done, this crown receive!
Well done, all who in me believe!
- 5 We wait, we wait; the end is near.
We wait, we wait; no need to fear.
We wait, we wait to see His throne.
We wait for Him to take us home.

Silent Prayer / The Postlude



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