



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 6, 2023

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Responsive Prayer 1, LSB page 282

Silent Prayer / Pre-Service Music / The Prelude

The Hymn of Invocation

349

"Hark the Glad Sound"

- 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 beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51 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: *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.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; 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 80:1-7

P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

C Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

P Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

C O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

P You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

C You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

P Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

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 Lesson (*sit*)

Mark 1:1-4

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.

The Hymn of the Day

347

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

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

The Sermon

**“Prepare the Way: Get Ready!”
St. Mark 1:1-4**

The Offertory Hymn (*stand*) **# 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.**

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 **# 341**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;

Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;

Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Silent Prayer / The Postlude



MIDWEEK SERVICE

December 13, 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