



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2024

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

Peace Handbell Choir

"Celebration No. 1 in G" – Michael R. Keller

OPENING HYMN *"Within the Father's House" LSB 410*

- 1 Within the Father's house
The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly
The Lord of life has come.

- 2 The doctors of the Law
Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words
Of wisdom undefiled.

- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n
The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides
Incarnate God below.
- 4 The secret of the Lord
Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await
The full epiphany.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls
And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace
- △6 Till we behold Thy face
And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Coequal Three in One.

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820–85, alt. Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 32:1–2

- P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- C Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- P I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
- C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection.

- P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C O most merciful God who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- P Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.**

PSALM

111

- P Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- C Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**
- P Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.
- C He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;**

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

P He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

**C He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

P The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

**C they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

P He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded
his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

**C The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

**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.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many
dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright.

Grant strength and protection to support us in all
dangers and carry us through all temptations; through
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet
like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him
you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God
at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me
not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great
fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are
right in what they have spoken.¹⁸I will raise up for them a
prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put
my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I
command him.¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words
that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of
him.²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my
name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who
speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall
die.’”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE*1 Corinthians 8:1–13*

¹Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL*Mark 1:21–28*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE HYMN

“Away from Us!” the Demon Cried” LSB LSB 541 (Tune: LSB 524)

- 1 “Away from us!” the demon cried
When Christ, the Lord, drew near.
“Our dark, disordered world is lost
When You, the Light, appear!”
- 2 But Jesus spoke with God’s own pow’r;
“Come forth!” was His command;

For evil cannot bear the Light
Nor sin the Truth withstand.

- 3 O risen Christ, God's living Word,
To us, we pray, draw near.
Come, speak the truth that cleanses sin
With love that conquers fear.
- 4 Drive out the doubt that cripples faith;
Expel our pride and greed
That we, from pow'rs that threaten us,
May, by Your grace, be freed.
- 5 Then help us, Lord, to greet each day
With hearts and wills made new
And, when You call us forth to serve,
To rise and follow You.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007
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MESSAGE

**“Even the Demons Know Him!”
St. Mark 1:21-28**

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

“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng” LSB 813 (v. 7)

- △ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high,
The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God forevermore. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-91, alt. Text: Public domain

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 *“Arise and Shine in Splendor”* LSB 396

- 1 Arise and shine in splendor;
Let night to day surrender.
Your light is drawing near.
Above, the day is beaming,
In matchless beauty gleaming;
The glory of the Lord is here.
- 2 See earth in darkness lying,
The heathen nations dying
In hopeless gloom and night.
To you the Lord of heaven—
Your life, your hope—has given
Great glory, honor, and delight.
- 3 The world’s remotest races,
Upon whose weary faces
The sun looks from the sky,
Shall run with zeal untiring,
With joy Your light desiring
That breaks upon them from on high.
- 4 Lift up your eyes in wonder—
See, nations gather yonder

From sin to be set free.
The world has heard Your story;
Her sons come to Your glory;
Her daughters haste Your light to see.

- 5 Your heart will leap for gladness
When from the realms of sadness
They come from near and far.
Your eyes will wake from slumber
As people without number
Rejoice to see the Morning Star.

Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1899–1987, alt.
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CLOSING PRAYER

P O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and
our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a
safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” LSB 849

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners,

Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Organist