

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

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Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

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**SECOND SUNDAY** *in Lent*



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*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*

**BAPTISM HYMN** *"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here" LSB 592*

- 1 Dearest Jesus, we are here,  
Gladly Your command obeying;  
With this child we now draw near  
In response to Your own saying  
That to You it shall be given  
As a child and heir of heaven.
  
- 2 Your command is clear and plain,  
And we would obey it duly:  
"You must all be born again,  
Heart and life renewing truly,

Born of water and the Spirit,  
And My kingdom thus inherit.”

- 3 Therefore we have come to You,  
In our arms this infant bearing.  
Truly here Your grace we view;  
May this child, Your mercy sharing,  
In Your arms be shielded ever,  
Yours on earth and Yours forever.
- 4 Gracious Head, Your member own;  
Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed it;  
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne;  
Way of Life, to heaven lead it;  
Precious Vine, let nothing sever  
From Your side this branch forever.
- 5 Now into Your heart we pour  
Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.  
Our petitions heav’nward soar;  
May our hearts’ desires be heeded!  
Write the name we now have given;  
Write it in the book of heaven!

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

## HOLY BAPTISM

*LSB 268-271*

Keegan Dean Campbell  
Victoria Denise Mongelli

## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING SENTENCES

- P Our Lenten journey continues toward the cross.  
C **It is a journey marked with suffering,**  
P but suffering produces endurance.  
C **Endurance produces character.**  
P Character produces hope,  
C **and hope in Christ does not put us to shame.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Our hope in Christ is strong and living, yet we have often taken for granted the profound reality of Christ’s death for us. We have ignored how weak and ungodly we have been. Still, our heavenly Father grants us access to His throne of grace, to ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

- P Heavenly Father,  
C **we have not rejoiced in suffering but have given up easily. We have lacked integrity and acted shamefully. And we have even despaired of life itself. Have mercy upon us, and reconcile us back to You, so that we may rejoice once more, on account of Jesus. Amen.**  
P At just the right time, while we were still weak and ungodly, Jesus Christ died for us and reconciled us to God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen. We are forgiven and are at peace with God.**

**PSALM**

22:23–31

- P You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- C For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.**
- P From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
- C The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!**
- P All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
- C For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**
- P All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.
- C Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;**
- P they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.
- 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.  
O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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***Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16*

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make

you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. . . .

<sup>15</sup>And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

#### **EPISTLE**

*Romans 5:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,

much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

#### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Mark 8:27–38*

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

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” <sup>30</sup>And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

<sup>31</sup>And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>34</sup>And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his

life? <sup>37</sup>For what can a man give in return for his life? <sup>38</sup>For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE HYMN** *“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” LSB 437*

- 1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
And did my sov’rign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I?
- 2 Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!
- 3 Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died  
For His own creatures’ sin.
- 4 Thus might I hide my blushing face  
While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt mine eyes to tears.
- 5 But drops of grief can ne’er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away:  
’Tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Text: Public domain

## MESSAGE

**“Peace with God”  
Romans 5:1-11**

## 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** *“Christ, the Life of All the Living” LSB 420 (v. 1)*

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit

I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, 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 “How Can I Thank You, Lord” LSB 703

1 How can I thank You, Lord,  
For all Your loving-kindness,  
That You have patiently  
Borne with me in my blindness!  
When dead in many sins  
And trespasses I lay,

I kindled, holy God,  
Your anger ev’ry day.

- 2 It is Your work alone  
That I am now converted;  
O’er Satan’s work in me  
You have Your pow’r asserted.  
Your mercy and Your grace  
That rise afresh each morn  
Have turned my stony heart  
Into a heart newborn.
- 3 Lord, You have raised me up  
To joy and exultation  
And clearly shown the way  
That leads me to salvation.  
My sins are washed away;  
For this I thank You, Lord.  
Now with my heart and soul  
All evil I abhor.
- 4 Grant that Your Spirit’s help  
To me be always given  
Lest I should fall again  
And lose the way to heaven.  
Grant that He give me strength  
In my infirmity;  
May He renew my heart  
To serve You willingly.
- △ 5 O Father, God of love,  
Now hear my supplication;  
O Savior, Son of God,  
Accept my adoration;

O Holy Spirit, be  
My ever faithful guide  
That I may serve You here  
And there with You abide.

Text: David Denicke, 1603–80; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

### CLOSING PRAYER

**P** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.

**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 “Draw Us to Thee” LSB 701

- 1 Draw us to Thee,  
For then shall we  
Walk in Thy steps forever  
And hasten on  
Where Thou art gone  
To be with Thee, dear Savior.
- 2 Draw us to Thee,  
Lord, lovingly;  
Let us depart with gladness

That we may be  
Forever free  
From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

- 3 Draw us to Thee;  
O grant that we  
May walk the road to heaven!  
Direct our way  
Lest we should stray  
And from Thy paths be driven.

- 4 Draw us to Thee  
That also we  
Thy heav’nly bliss inherit  
And ever dwell  
Where sin and hell  
No more can vex our spirit.

- 5 Draw us to Thee  
Unceasingly,  
Into Thy kingdom take us;  
Let us fore’er  
Thy glory share,  
Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Text: Friedrich Funcke, 1642–99; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

*Organist*