

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N. Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 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.

ALL ENTER IN SILENCE

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Please use the time before worship to prepare yourself in prayer. The prayer below or any other suitable prayer may be used to prepare yourself to receive the gracious gifts of Christ our Lord in the Divine Service.

O good Jesus,
Word of the Father and
brightness of his glory,
whom angels desire to behold:
teach me to do your will that, guided by your Spirit,
I may come to that blessed city of everlasting day,
where all are one in heart and mind,
where there is safety and eternal peace,
happiness and delight,
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
world without end. Amen.

(After Gregory the Great)

PRELUDE

Organist

OPENING HYMN *"Today Your Mercy Calls Us" LSB 915*

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.
- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,

We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt. Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Holy Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on God's Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray:

Dear Father in heaven, on this Day we ask you to empower us with Your Holy Spirit, on behalf of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ the Messiah. Father, please, richly bless us as we enter into this Lententide. Lord, we ask you to use our Lenten journey to fill us with the compassion and love that Jesus has for us to love each other and bring us to the celebration of the Resurrection with glad hearts as we keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Please come forward at this time if you would like to receive ashes and/or a blessing.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins unto God our Father.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus ✠ Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And with your spirit.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; 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 *Joel 2:12–19*

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
"Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast
love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my
transgressions.

**C Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

P For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**C Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is
evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your
words and blameless in your judgment.**

P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**C Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**C Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

P Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

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

P Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**C Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

P Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

**C Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my
salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your
righteousness.**

P O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

**C For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and
contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**C Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

P then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Joel 2:13b*

P Return to the LORD, your God,

**C for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

P The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED

**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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee” LSB 607 (Tune: LSB 622)

- 1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee,
In trial and tribulation;
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,
Lord, hear my supplication.
If Thou rememb’rest ev’ry sin,
Who then could heaven ever win
Or stand before Thy presence?
- 2 Thy love and grace alone avail
To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail
To break sin’s dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.
- 3 Therefore my hope is in the Lord
And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word
To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just;
This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.
- 4 And though it tarry through the night
And till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt His might
Nor count itself forsaken.
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.
Born of the Spirit and the Word,
Now wait for His appearing.

5 Though great our sins, yet greater still
Is God's abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will
Abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Text: Public domain

MESSAGE

Rev. Michael Vernava

**"Consistent Righteousness"
II Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

OFFERTORY "Create in Me" LSB 956

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12 Text: Public domain

LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,
C **hear us.**

P God the Father in heaven,

C **have mercy.**

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**

P God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**

P Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**

P Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**

P In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our

repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the
distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned,
and all who stand in our need of prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all;

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and
slanderers;
and to graciously hear our prayers;

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of
the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of
the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of
the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P O God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather
that they turn from their wickedness and live. We
implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our
mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust
and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our
sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid
up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ,
Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to
pray:

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.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

P The Lord be with You.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“When in the Hour of Deepest Need” LSB 615

- 1 When in the hour of deepest need
We know not where to look for aid;
When days and nights of anxious thought
No help or counsel yet have brought,
- 2 Then is our comfort this alone
That we may meet before Your throne;
To You, O faithful God, we cry
For rescue in our misery.
- 3 For You have promised, Lord, to heed
Your children’s cries in time of need
Through Him whose name alone is great,
Our Savior and our advocate.
- 4 And so we come, O God, today
And all our woes before You lay;

For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
Perplexed by fears on ev’ry hand.

5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.
Be with us in our anguish still;
Free us at last from ev’ry ill.

6 So we with all our hearts each day
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,
Then walk obedient to Your Word,
And now and ever praise You, Lord.

Text: Paul Eber, 1511–69; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE

Organist

2024 LENTEN SCHEDULE

Join us Wednesday evenings for **Soup Suppers** at **6 PM** and **Midweek Lenten and Holy Week Worship Services** at **7 PM**.

February 14th — Ash Wednesday

“Consistent Righteousness”

(2 Cor. 5:20b—6:10)

February 21st — Lent Midweek 1

“Are You Getting Your Greens?”

(St. Luke 18:9-14)

February 28th — Lent Midweek 2

“Keys to New Life”

(St. John 20:21-23)

March 6th — Lent Midweek 3

“Jesus’ Strategy for Peacemaking”

(St. Matthew 18:15-20)

March 13th — Lent Midweek 4

“What a Pastor Owe God’s People”

(Ezekiel 3:16-21, 24-27)

March 20th — Lent Midweek 5

“What God’s People Owe Their Pastor”

(Jeremiah 26:20-24)

March 28th — Lent Midweek 6,

Maundy Thursday

“Caught Red-Handed”

(St. John 13:21-30)

March 29th — Lent Midweek 7,

Good Friday

“All!”

(Isaiah 52:13—53:12)

March 31st — The Resurrection of Our Lord:

Easter Sunrise, 7 AM

To Be Announced

March 31st — The Resurrection of Our Lord:

Easter Day, 9 AM

To Be Announced