

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

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Midweek Lenten Worship Service

March 13, 2024



**MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE**

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*Responsive Prayer 1, LSB page 282*

Silent Prayer / The Prelude

The Hymn of Invocation **# 586 (Tune: LSB 585)**  
*"Preach You the Word"*

- 1 Preach you the Word and plant it home  
To men who like or like it not,  
The Word that shall endure and stand  
When flow'rs and men shall be forgot.
- 2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task  
Your servant bade us undertake:  
To preach Your Word and never ask  
What prideful profit it may make.
- 3 The sower sows; his reckless love  
Scatters abroad the goodly seed,  
Intent alone that all may have  
The wholesome loaves that all men need.
- 4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched  
And some be choked and matted flat,  
The sower sows; his heart cries out,  
"Oh, what of that, and what of that?"
- 5 Of all his scattered plenteousness  
One-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat,

And bears a harvest hundredfold:  
“Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!”

6 Preach you the Word and plant it home  
And never faint; the Harvest Lord  
Who gave the sower seed to sow  
Will watch and tend His planted Word.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt.  
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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*

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,

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**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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

The Psalm of the Day

**Psalms 107:1–9**

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

**C Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
whom he has redeemed from trouble**

P and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**C Some wandered in desert wastes,  
finding no way to a city to dwell in;**

P hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

**C Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.**

P He led them by a straight way  
till they reached a city to dwell in.

**C Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wondrous works to the children of men!**

P For he satisfies the longing soul,  
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

**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 Old Testament

**Ezekiel 3:16-21, 24-27**

<sup>16</sup>And at the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>17</sup>“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>18</sup>If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>19</sup>But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. <sup>20</sup>Again, if a righteous person turns from his righteousness and commits injustice, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die. Because you have not warned him, he shall die for his sin, and his righteous

deeds that he has done shall not be remembered, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>21</sup>But if you warn the righteous person not to sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he took warning, and you will have delivered your soul.”

<sup>24</sup>But the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and he spoke with me and said to me, “Go, shut yourself within your house. <sup>25</sup>And you, O son of man, behold, cords will be placed upon you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people. <sup>26</sup>And I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be mute and unable to reprove them, for they are a rebellious house. <sup>27</sup>But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’ He who will hear, let him hear; and he who will refuse to hear, let him refuse, for they are a rebellious house.

The Hymn of the Day

# 681

*“Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit”*

- 1 Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit  
On Your servant now, we pray;  
Let him prove a faithful shepherd  
That no lamb be led astray.  
Your pure teaching to proclaim,  
To extol Your holy name,  
And to feed Your lambs, dear Savior,  
Make his aim and sole endeavor.
- 2 You, O Lord, Yourself have called him  
For Your precious lambs to care;  
But to prosper in his calling,  
He the Spirit’s gifts must share.  
Give him wisdom from above,

Fill his heart with holy love;  
In his weakness, Lord, be near him,  
In his prayers, Good Shepherd, hear him.

- 3 Help, Lord Jesus, help him nourish  
All our children with Your Word  
That in fervent love they serve You  
Till in heav’n their song is heard.  
Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow  
On his faithful toil below  
Till by grace to him be given  
His reward, the crown of heaven.

Text: Lieder-Perlen, 1905, St. Louis; tr. Frederick W. Herzberger, 1859–1930, alt. Text: Public domain

The Sermon

**“What a Pastor Owes God’s People”  
Ezekiel 3:16-21, 24-27**

The Offertory Hymn

# 422

*“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”*

- 1 On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, 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

# 682

*“God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets’ Sons”*

- 1 God of the prophets, bless the prophets’ sons;  
Elijah’s mantle o’er Elisha cast.  
Each age its solemn task may claim but once;  
Make each one nobler, stronger than the last.
- 2 Anoint them prophets, men who are intent  
To be Your witnesses in word and deed,  
Their hearts aflame, their lips made eloquent,  
Their eyes awake to ev’ry human need.
- 3 Anoint them priests, strong intercessors they,  
For pardon and for love and hope and peace,

That, through their pleading, guilty sinners may  
Find Jesus’ mercy and from sin release.

- 4 Anoint them kings, yes, kingly kings, O Lord.  
Anoint them with the Spirit of Your Son.  
Theirs not a jeweled crown, a bloodstained sword;  
Theirs, by sweet love, for Christ a kingdom won.
- 5 Make them apostles, heralds of Your cross;  
Forth let them go to tell the world of grace.  
Inspired by You, may they count all but loss  
And stand at last with joy before Your face.

Text: Denis Wortman, 1835–1922, alt. Text: Public domain

Silent Prayer / The Postlude



## LENTEN CALENDAR

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

**March 13<sup>th</sup>** — Lent Midweek 4

“What a Pastor Owes God’s People”  
(Ezekiel 3:16-21, 24-27)

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** — Lent Midweek 5

“What God’s People Owe Their Pastor”  
(Jeremiah 26:20-24)

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** — Lent Midweek 6,  
**Maundy Thursday**  
“Caught Red-Handed”  
(St. John 13:21-30)

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** — Lent Midweek 7,  
**Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** — **The Resurrection of Our Lord:**  
**Easter Sunrise, 7 AM**  
*To Be Announced*

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** — **The Resurrection of Our Lord:**  
**Easter Day, 9 AM**  
*To Be Announced*

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** — **The Resurrection of Our Lord:**  
**Easter Day, 12 PM** (Hmong Worship)