



## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

Third Sunday of Easter

April 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.*

### 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*

*"Jesus Christ is Risen Today" – arr. by Barbara Kinyon*

#### **OPENING HYMN**

*"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" LSB 465*

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
In praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Eternal is the gift He brings,  
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”  
Now still He comes to give us life  
And by His presence stills all strife.  
Christ has triumphed! He is living!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through Your triumph;  
Grant grace sufficient for life’s day  
That by our lives we truly say:  
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ 4 Adoring praises now we bring  
And with the heav’nly blessed sing:  
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”  
Be to the Father and our Lord,  
To Spirit blest, most holy God,  
All the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
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## INVOCATION

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

**C Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 118:24; Romans 6:9; adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8*

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

**C let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;  
**C death no longer has dominion over Him.**

P Christ has risen from the dead.

**C God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

**C He has put all things under His feet.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**C Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

**C Amen.**

**PSALM**

P Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!  
You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

**C O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**

P But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

**C Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.**

P Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

**C There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!”**

P You have put more joy in my heart  
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

**C In peace I will both lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

**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, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

*Acts 3:11–21*

<sup>11</sup>While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s, astounded. <sup>12</sup>And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to

you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup>that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

*1 John 3:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children,

let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 24:36–49*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

<sup>36</sup>As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” <sup>37</sup>But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate before them.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father

upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MESSAGE HYMN** *“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won” LSB 490*

- 1 Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won!  
Death no longer can appall me;  
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!  
From the grave will Christ recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.
- 2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne  
High above all things is given.  
I shall go where He is gone,  
Live and reign with Him in heaven.  
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!  
This shall be my confidence.
- 3 Jesus lives! For me He died,  
Hence will I, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide,  
Praise to Him and glory giving.  
All I need God will dispense;  
This shall be my confidence.
- 4 Jesus lives! I know full well  
Nothing me from Him shall sever.  
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell  
Part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be my sure defense;  
This shall be my confidence.

- 5 Jesus lives! And now is death  
But the gate of life immortal;  
This shall calm my trembling breath  
When I pass its gloomy portal.  
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:  
Jesus is my confidence!

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt. Text: Public domain

**MESSAGE**

**“More Amazing Than A Miracle!”  
Acts 3:11-21**

**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** *“He Is Arisen! Glorious Word” LSB 488*

- 1 He is arisen! Glorious Word!  
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
The gates of heav’n are open.  
My Jesus did triumphant die,  
And Satan’s arrows broken lie,  
Destroyed hell’s fiercest weapon.  
O hear what cheer!  
Christ victorious,  
Rising glorious,  
Life is giving.  
He was dead but now is living!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, 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** *“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen” LSB 474*

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! *Refrain*

*Refrain*

*Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!*

- 2 Walking the way, Christ in the center  
Telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:  
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain*
- 3 Jesus the vine, We are the branches;  
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,  
Gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain*
- 4 Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent:  
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!”  
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain*
- 5 City of God, Easter forever,  
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
River of life, Saints and archangels,  
Sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009  
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**CLOSING PRAYER**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

*"Like the Golden Sun Ascending" TLH 207 (v. 1, 2, 4, 6)*

Like the golden sun ascending,  
Breaking thro' the gloom of night,  
On the earth his glory spending  
So that darkness takes to flight,  
Thus my Jesus from the grave  
And Death's dismal, dreadful cave  
Rose triumphant Easter morning  
At the early purple dawning.

Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!  
Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!  
Death hath now no power o'er us,  
Thou hast conquered in the strife.  
Thanks because Thou didst arise  
And hast opened Paradise!

None can fully sing the glory  
Of the resurrection story.

Thou hast died for my transgression,  
All my sins on Thee were laid;  
Thou hast won for me salvation,  
On the cross my debt was paid.  
From the grave I shall arise  
And shall meet Thee in the skies.  
Death itself is transitory;  
I shall lift my head in glory.

For the joy Thy advent gave me,  
For Thy holy, precious Word;  
For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,  
For Thy blest Communion board;  
For Thy death, the bitter scorn,  
For Thy resurrection morn,  
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,  
And in heaven I shall behold Thee.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

*Organist*