

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 25, 2024

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

LENT 2 – RETHINKING RELIGION: RETHINKING SUFFERING

False manmade religion (and the natural setting of our sinful hearts) is filled with incorrect ideas. Throughout these Sundays in Lent, we let Jesus replace these manmade assumptions with the truth. We call this true faith “Christianity.” Jesus, help us to rethink religion as you teach us with your Word; your Word is truth!

The cross was an instrument of torture and execution. Scripture also uses the term “cross” to refer to any suffering that one endures as result of faith in Jesus. The manmade assumption is that all suffering, including the Christian cross is bad. Jesus’ Word tells us the cross the Christian suffers has meaning and purpose. It is a natural result of following Christ. The chief purpose of such suffering is to drive us to Jesus alone, for only the cross He endured perfectly saves us!

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF “CLOSE COMMUNION”

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you’ve had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

THE PSALMS OF THE ASCENTS

Our Psalm for the day in Lent comes from Psalms 120 to 134, a section of Psalms the Bible calls the “The Songs of the Ascents.” One likely reason for this name is that believers sang these Psalms as they were “going up” to Jerusalem (located in mountains) at the special festivals that pointed ahead to Jesus’ saving work.

These Psalms even seem to describe such a journey, progressing from distant lands (Psalm 120) up to Jerusalem and the temple courts, closing with a blessing (Psalm 134). In Lent we are in a way making our way “up to Jerusalem” as we get ready to observe our Savior’s death and resurrection that took place in Jerusalem to bring God’s people true peace!

SUNDAYS IN LENT

During the Sundays in Lent, we use a setting of Divine Service II from *Christian Worship Supplement*, a worship resource that predated our current hymnal, familiar to many long-time Peace members. The elements and flow of this Christ-centered liturgy have their origins already in the Synagogue services of the Old Testament combined with songs of praise from the New Testament. However, in the quieter tone of Lent, we omit the use of alleluias and the great jubilant song *Glory to God*, which is replaced with a Lenten hymn.

GUEST PREACHER

We welcome this month’s guest preacher, Pastor Jerry Ewings who currently serves with the Ministry of Christian Giving for the WELS. He will present a special presentation between services in the worship space during the Bible class hour.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Shaun Arndt
Sermon Rev. Jerry Ewings
Accompanist Mrs. Sarah Bilitz (Sunday); Ms. Michaela Bubolz (Monday)
Projection Slides Eric Uher

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OPENING HYMN

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken | CW 694:1-3

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever;

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

Christ, have mercy.

For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE

Christ, the Life of All the Living | CW 396:1,3

**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 sufferings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

**Thou hast borne the smiting only
that my wounds might all be whole;
thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
rest to give my weary soul;
yea, the curse of God enduring,
blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

Text: Ernst C. Homburg, 1605–1681, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 3): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, alt.
Text: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Job 1:13-22

One day when Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the female donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵when the Sabeans swooped down and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the flocks and the servants and consumed them, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and plundered the camels and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and were drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother. ¹⁹Suddenly a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it collapsed on the young people, and they died, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

²⁰Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshipped. ²¹Then he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. May the name of the LORD be blessed."

²²In all this, Job did not sin or blame God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 121A

Refrain



I lift up my eyes to the moun-tains, from where shall come my
help? My help shall come from the One who has made the
heav - ens and the earth, the mak - er of heav-en and earth.

Tone



I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—
where does my help / come from?
My help comes / from the LORD,
the maker of / heaven and earth.
He will not let your / foot slip—
he who watches over you will not / slumber;
indeed, he who watches over / Israel
will neither / slumber nor sleep. *Refrain*

The LORD watches / over you—
the LORD is your shade / at your right hand.
The LORD will keep you / from all harm—
he will watch / over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and / going
both now and for- / evermore.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God.

³Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, ⁴and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. ⁵And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

⁶For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 8:34

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me.

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. ³²He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men."

³⁴He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶After all, what good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸In fact, whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart | CW 817

SERMON

Romans 5:1-11

More Than a Street in Jerusalem

- 1) The Via Dolorosa – the way of His suffering
- 2) The Via Dolorosa of all who follow Him

Please stand

THE SECOND ARTICLE (REDEMPTION)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special Prayers

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

A musical offering follows-for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.

Ever since Covid the tradition of physically passing an offering plate has been discontinued.

Nevertheless, the offering is still an important component of how we worship God. Jesus Himself commanded, “Come [to worship] and offer your gift” (Mt 5:24).

There is an offering plate near the door of this worship room.

If you would like to set up electronic giving, please log on to our website, www.peacewels.org and click on “Give” from the top menu.

Of course, our guests are not expected to support this ministry. We are just glad you are here.

Please stand

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CW 1046

Tune: ANTHES



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

CW 1031

Tune: ST. CRISPIN



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can-celled



cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will



took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: George J. Elvey

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Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Please respect our practice of “Close Communion,” meaning we commune members of Peace and churches affiliated with Peace. For further explanation, please see inside the front cover of this bulletin. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me | CW 831

What God Ordains Is Always Good | CW 844

Please stand

COMMUNION DISMISSAL

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go ✠ in peace.

Amen.

SONG OF SIMEON *Sung to the melody of CW 430 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"*

**Now in peace, Lord, at your promise
we your servants now depart.
Your salvation we have witnessed
in your Sacrament and Word.
Give us now your Holy Spirit
to declare what he has done.
For the world, yes, every nation,
Jesus has redemption won.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken | CW 694:4

**Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,
armed by faith and winged by prayer;
all but heav'n is transitory,
God's own hand shall guide you there.
Soon shall end this earthly story,
swift shall pass the pilgrim days,
hope soon change to heav'nly glory,
faith to sight and prayer to praise.**

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