

# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 3, 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 3 – RETHINKING RELIGION: RETHINKING WORSHIP

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!

Many think worship is about what we do for God. It is the other way around! The old German Lutheran term used to describe what happens as the Church gathers is *Gottesdienst*, meaning: “The Divine Service.” **God** is the one **serving** in the worship ‘**service**.’ He freely gives us the priceless gifts of forgiveness Jesus has secured through the gospel message in Bible, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Moved by the cross of Christ, we bow down before our God. We commune with Him. We receive from Him, and that’s exactly what God wants.

Even our good works, our Christian life lived in response to His goodness to Him is the result of what God has done to serve us. He gives us His law to guide our lives for our good. He is the One who creates in us new hearts (Psalm 51) eager to live according to His ways. He renews us for this as He serves us the promises of His Word. As we gather around Word and sacrament, the Spirit moves us to love and trust in the true God above all things. We love, because He first loved us!

**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.

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

Presider ..... Rev. Shaun Arndt  
Accompanist ..... Mrs. Jennifer Werre  
Sunday School..... Jennifer Werre, director; Violet Larson, accompanist  
Projection Slides ..... Amy Larson

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## OPENING HYMN

*I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus | CW 816*

*10:30 Service: Sunday School grades PreK-2 will sing select verses of the opening hymn.*

*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

*Christ, the Life of All the Living* | **CW 396:1,4**

**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.**

**Heartless scoffers did surround thee,  
treating thee with cruel scorn,  
and with piercing thorns they crowned thee.  
All disgrace thou, Lord, hast borne  
that as thine thou mightest own me  
and with heav'nly glory crown me.**

**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. 4): 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.

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

***Exodus 20:1-17***

Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, where you were slaves.

<sup>3</sup>You shall have no other gods beside me. <sup>4</sup>You shall not make any carved image for yourself or a likeness of anything in heaven above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. <sup>5</sup>Do not bow down to them or be subservient to them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God. I follow up on the guilt of the fathers with their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren, if they also hate me. <sup>6</sup>But I show mercy to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not permit anyone who misuses his name to escape unpunished.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, <sup>11</sup>for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother so that you may spend many days on the land that the LORD your God is giving to you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not commit murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM OF THE DAY

## Psalm 125A

### Refrain



The LORD sur-rounds his peo-ple both now and for-ev - er - more.

### Tone



Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount / Zion,  
which cannot be shaken but endures for- / ever.

As the mountains surround Je- / rusalem,

so the LORD surrounds his people both now and for- / evermore. *Refrain*

The scepter of the wicked will / not remain  
over the land allotted to the / righteous.

LORD, do good to those / who are good,  
to those who are up- / right in heart.

**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

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>In fact, it is written:

I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;

the intelligence of the intelligent I will bring to nothing.

<sup>20</sup>Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Jewish law? Where is the probing thinker of the present age? Has God not shown that the wisdom of this world is foolish?

<sup>21</sup>Indeed, since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in his wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message. <sup>22</sup>Yes, Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and

foolishness to Greeks, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***John 2:17***

His disciples remembered that it is written:

**“Zeal for your house will consume me.”**

## **GOSPEL**

***John 2:13-22***

The Jewish Passover was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup>In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers sitting at tables. <sup>15</sup>He made a whip of cords and drove everyone out of the temple courts, along with the sheep and oxen. He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>To those selling doves he said, “Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a place of business!”

<sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup>So the Jews responded, “What sign are you going to show us to prove you can do these things?”

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again.”

<sup>20</sup>The Jews said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple! And you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>When Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this. Then they believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated*

**SERMON**

**Exodus 20:1-17**

The LORD is Serious

*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*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

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



## 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.**

*Please stand*

## **PRAYER**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.**

## **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**

*Salvation unto Us Has Come* | **CW 558:7-10**