

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 10, 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 4 – RETHINKING RELIGION: RETHINKING THE SOLUTION TO SIN

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!

Even false manmade religion still acknowledges that mankind’s flaws (sin) in attitude and action are a source of pain, now and potentially eternally. However, the solution they offer involves human effort: be better, try harder! This leads to crushing despair or deadly pride. *True religion*, the Christian faith gives the better “Way” that frees us from guilt and leaves no room for pride. Jesus teaches the solution for sin is not working harder, but to trust what He has done for us. Salvation is through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ who was ‘lifted up’ for 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 Thomas Schmidt. Pastor Schmidt is retired from full time ministry and lives in Fort Atkinson. We thank him for bringing us the sermon message from God’s Word.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Shaun Arndt
Sermon Rev. Thomas Schmidt
AccompanistMrs. Lynn Proeber
Projection Slides Dan Larson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OPENING HYMN

God Loved the World So That He Gave | **CW 570:1-4**

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,
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.**

Christ, the Life of All the Living | **CW 396:1,5**

**Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee
that from pain I might be free;
falsely did thy foes accuse thee:
thence I gain security.**

**Comfortless thy soul did languish
me to comfort in my anguish.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Ernst C. Homburg, 1605–1681, abr.
Text: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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

Numbers 21:4-9

They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

⁶The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. ⁷The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live." ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 126C

Refrain



Tone



When the LORD restored the fortunes of / Zion,
we were like those who / dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with / laughter,
our tongues with songs of / joy.

Then it was said among the / nations,
“The LORD has done great things for / them.”
The LORD has done great things for / us,
and we are filled with / joy. *Refrain*

Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the / Negev.
Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of / joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to / sow,
will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with / them.

**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. A- / men. *Refrain***

Tune: Mark Haas
Setting: Mark Haas
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SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey.

³Formerly, we all lived among them in the passions of our sinful flesh, as we carried out the desires of the sinful flesh and its thoughts. Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath.

⁴But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. ²¹But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Grace Is This | CW 395

SERMON

John 3:14-21

Why Real Christians are a Breed Apart

1. They look to God's uplifted Son.
2. They lean on God's unlimited love.
3. They live according to God's unveiled light.

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.

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.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

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

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.

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 1025

Tune: AURELIA



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: Samuel S. Wesley

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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.

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | **CW 407**

To God Be the Glory | **CW 627**

Please stand

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

God Loved the World So That He Gave | **CW 570:5,6**

**If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!**

**Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!**

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens- Opfer, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
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