

Peace Lutheran Church

Second Mid-Week Service of Lent March 8, 2023

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

(Stand for prayer if you are able)

Procession

Leader: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All: the light no darkness can over-come;

Leader: Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All: and the day is almost over.

Leader: Let your light scatter the darkness,

All: and shine within your people here.

Evening Hymn

All:

1. Joyous light of heavenly glory, loving glow of God's own face, you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race. Now as evening falls around us we shall raise our songs to you, God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.
2. In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song. Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul, Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.
3. You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light. Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way, Loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

Evening Thanksgiving

Leader: May God be with you all,

All: and also with you;

Leader: Let us sing our thanks to God,

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe - from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All: Amen

Psalmody, Readings and Canticles

Psalm 141

All: Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

Group One: O God, I call to you, * come to me now; O hear my voice when I call to you, Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you. Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright. Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you. All praise to the God of all Creator of life; all praise go to Christ and the Spirit of love. Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

* **At this point Group two starts**

(Silence for meditation)

Leader: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

All: Amen.

(Silence for meditation)

Leader: The light shines in the darkness

All: and the darkness has not overcome it

Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 1:18-21

¹⁸ Then I looked up, and there before me were four horns. ¹⁹ I asked the angel who was speaking to me, “What are these?”

He answered me, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem.”

²⁰ Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. ²¹ I asked, “What are these coming to do?”

He answered, “These are the horns that scattered Judah so that no one could raise their head, but the craftsmen have come to terrify them and throw down these horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter its people.”

Second Reading: I Corinthians 3:15-17

¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

¹⁶ Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter,^[a] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades^[b] will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be^[c] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[d] loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Hymn “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
sinners, ruined by the fall;
here a pure and healing fountain
flows for you, for me, for all,
in a full, perpetual tide,
opened when our Savior died.

.
2 Come in poverty and meanness,
come defiled, without, within;
from infection and uncleanness,
from the leprosy of sin,
wash your robes and make them white;
you shall walk with God in light.

.
3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
here the guilty, free remission,
here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
they that drink shall thirst no more.

.
4 They that drink shall live forever;
'tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
break his covenant of blood,
signed when our Redeemer died,
sealed when he was glorified.

Message
Pastor John Westhafer

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

(Stand for prayer if you are able)

The Annunciation

Luke 1: 26-28, 30-32, 38

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

(Immediately to "The Magnificat")

The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

1. My soul proclaims your greatness O God, and my spirit rejoices in servant here, and blessed be all my life though. Great and mighty are you. O Holy One, strong in your kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.
2. You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part. Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice strong your love. As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, Kindness forever more.
3. My soul proclaims your greatness O God, and my spirit rejoices in servant here, and blessed be all my life though.

Litany and Prayers

All: (Hum first round then sing) God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: In peace, in Peace, we pray to you:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: For peace and salvation, we pray to you:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: For peace between nations, for peace between peoples:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: For us who are gathered to worship and praise your:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: For all of your servants who live out your gospel:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: For all those who labor in service to others:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:

All: God of mercy, Hold us in love,

Leader: Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

All: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.

Leader: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Leader: God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

All: 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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Final Blessing

Leader: Let us bless our God:

All: praise and thanks to you.

Leader: May God, Creator bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of Love be our guide and path, for all of our days.

All: Amen

Post-Service Music