

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

325 E. Warwick Dr. ~ Alma, Michigan ~ 48801

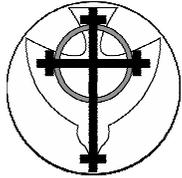
463-5754 ~ www.peacealma.org

Email: contact@peacealma.org

Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor

Home: 463-3093 ~ Cell: (989) 388-2037

Email: pastor@peacealma.org



Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this evening for our Midweek Vespers Advent Service. Rejoice, for the Lord comes to you here in this place to give you His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through His precious means of grace – His Holy Word and Sacraments. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon you as you receive these Divine gifts. Please take the time to fill out the **Record of Fellowship form** that is in the pew. If you are visiting with us this evening, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by signing the guest book that is in the hallway on the left as you leave the sanctuary. The Lord be with us in His Holy House this evening!

An Introduction to Vespers

Vespers, meaning “evening” (from the Latin vespera), was originally known as lucernarium, as candles or lamps were lit in the course of its liturgy. Vespers was originally part of the night office, but by the time of St. Benedict (ca. AD 480-543), it was transferred to the early evening or late afternoon. Along with Matins (the corresponding morning Service), Luther retained Vespers as a daily office of preaching, praise, and prayer. In structure, Vespers is very similar to Matins, as both services provide for praise of God in psalmody, hymns, and canticles; the opportunity for the reading and proclamation of God's Word; and space for the prayers of the faithful.

—*Treasury of Daily Prayer, p. 0-11*

Advent Sermon Series: The Threefold Office of Christ

During our three Midweek Vespers Advent Services, we will focus upon the glorious truth that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, was anointed to fulfill the Threefold Office of Prophet, Priest, and King on our behalf. Tonight, as we conclude this series, we meditate upon the fact that Jesus comes to be our King.

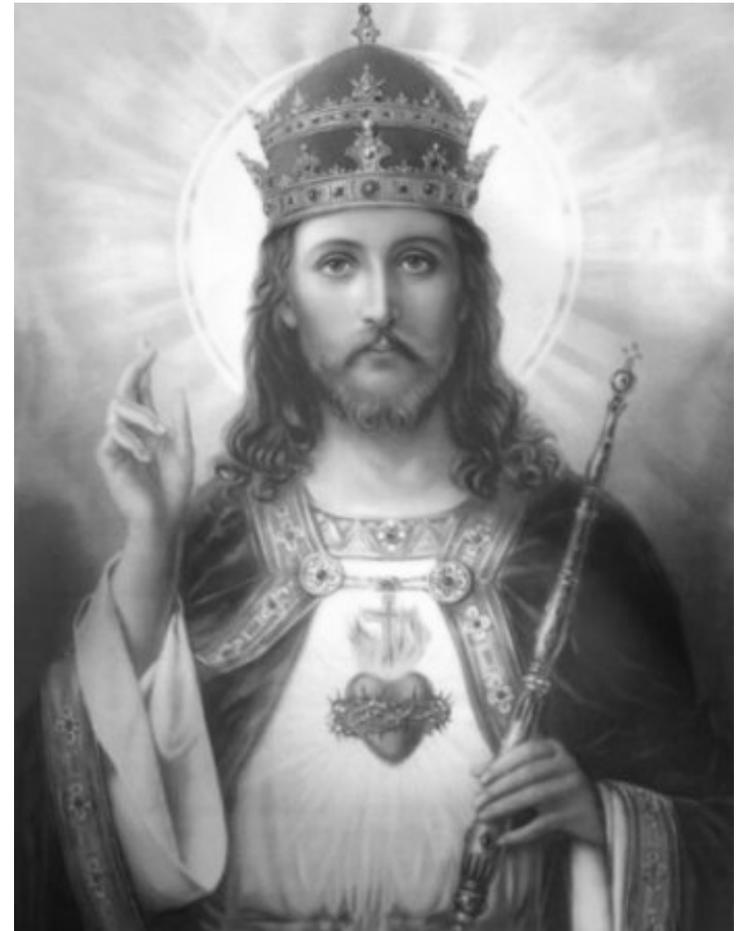
Our Mission Statement

The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.

Gaudete Midweek Vespers

Third Wednesday in Advent

17 December Anno ✝ Domini 2008



“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” (*John 18:36*)

Gaudete Midweek Vespers

Third Wednesday in Advent
17 December Anno ✠ Domini 2008



LSB ORDER OF VESPERS, PAGE 229

The Service of Preparation

(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

Preparatory Prayers

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

(The congregation stands at the conclusion of the Ringing of the Bells for the Opening Versicles)

The Closing Hymn: 537 “Beautiful Savior”

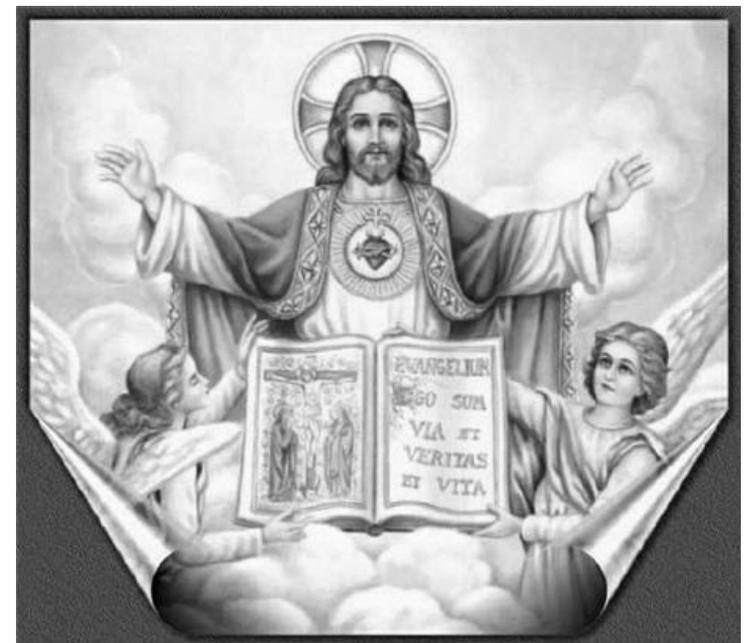
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair - are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Text and Music: Public domain

Soli Deo Gloria!

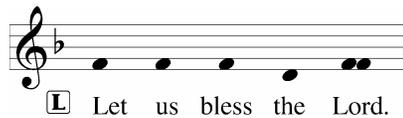


Collect for Peace

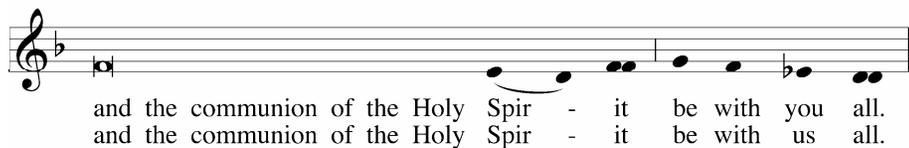
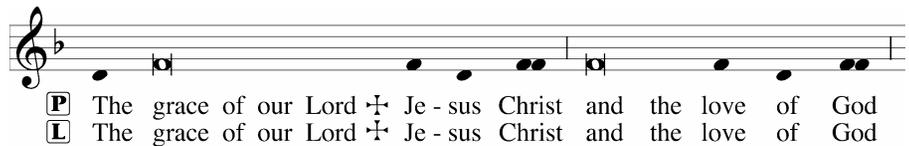
O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through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



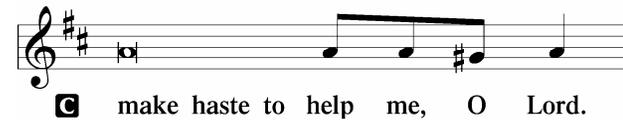
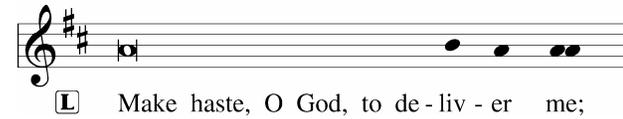
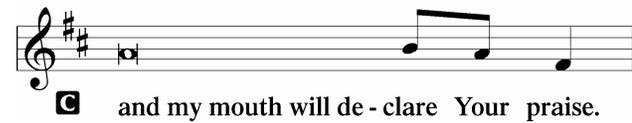
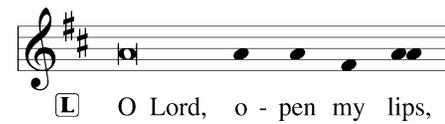
Benedicamus



Benediction



Opening Versicles



Common: Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.
Advent: Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.
Lent: Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.



Psalmody

Psalm 85



Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*,
you covered | all their sin.

You withdrew | all your wrath;*
you turned from your hot | anger.

Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*,
and put away your indignation | toward us!

Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?
Will you not revive | us again,*,

that your people may re- | joice in you?

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*,
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn
back to | folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*,
that glory may dwell | in our land.

Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;*,
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*,
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*,
and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

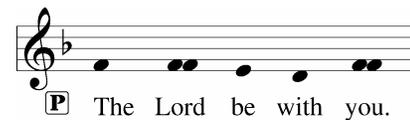
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*,
that glory may dwell | in our land.

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

Collects



P The Lord be with you.



G And with your spir - it.



P Let us pray.

Collect for Gaudete (Advent 3)

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Collect of the Day (from *Treasury of Daily Prayer*)

Lord God, heavenly Father, You rescued Daniel from the lions' den and the three young men from the fiery furnace through the miraculous intervention of an angel. Save us now through the presence of Jesus, the Lion of Judah, who has conquered all our enemies through His blood and taken away all our sins as the Lamb of God, who now reigns from His heavenly throne with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Collect for Thanksgiving

Lord God, heavenly Father, from Your hand we receive all good gifts and by Your grace we are guarded from all evil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that, acknowledging with our whole heart Your boundless goodness, we may now and evermore thank and praise You for Your loving-kindness and tender mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



G A - men.

I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,
and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.

II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.

III Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A - men.

Sit

The Offering is gathered for the Lord's work

(If you have not done so already, please sign and share the Fellowship folders in the pews to assist us in keeping accurate attendance records. Thank you.)

Stand

Prayer

The Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Sit

Office Hymn: 554 "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"

1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,
3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,

O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -
The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our

ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.
joys we know, All that we can de - sire:
self in - flame To seek You more and more!
lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

Text (sts. 1-5) and Music: Public domain

Readings

The First Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his gracious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

John 18:33-37

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory—Advent

Jeremiah 23:5a, 6



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a righ-teous Branch.
2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



C This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

The Sermon: "Jesus Comes to Be Our King"



Stand

Canticle

Antiphon—Common

L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

The Magnificat ~ Song of Mary

C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;

I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.

II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.

I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;

II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.

I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the

imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the

might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.