

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

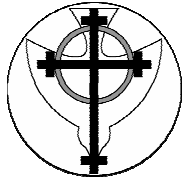
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Welcome

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. O-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 begin this series, we meditate upon the fact that Jesus comes to be our Prophet.

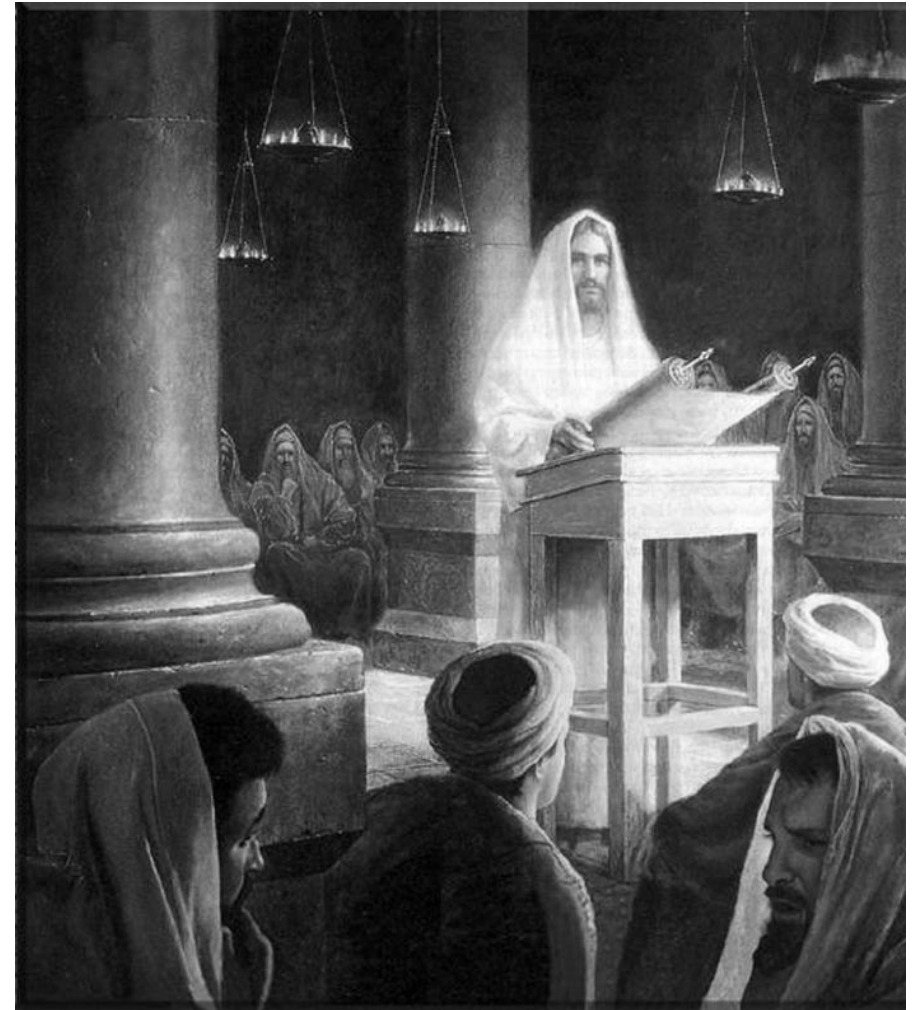
Our Mission Statement

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.

Ad Te Levavi Midweek Vespers

First Wednesday in Advent

3 December Anno ✠ Domini 2008



“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.” (Deuteronomy 18:18-19)

Ad Te Levavi Midweek Vespers

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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: 526 “You Are the Way; through You Alone”

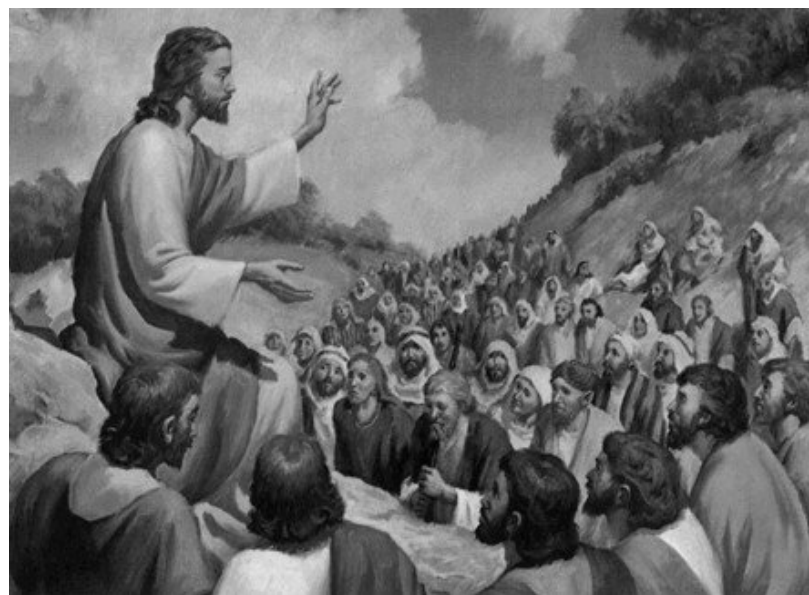
1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True
3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant

we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
wis - dom can im - part; You, on - ly can in -
claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
us that way to know, That truth to keep, that

God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text (sts. 1-4) and Music: Public domain

Soli Deo Gloria!

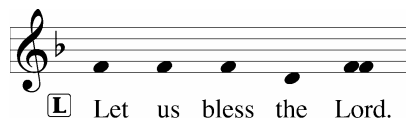


Collect for Peace

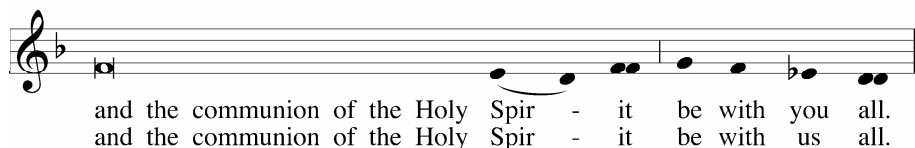
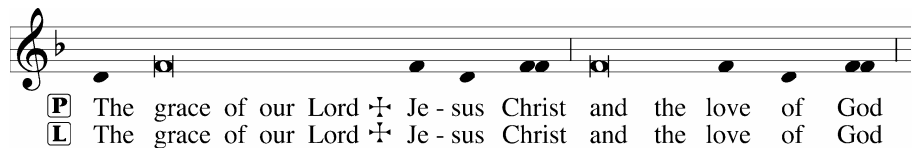
O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through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



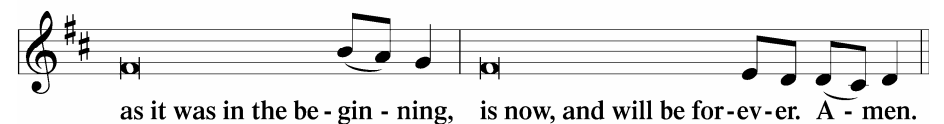
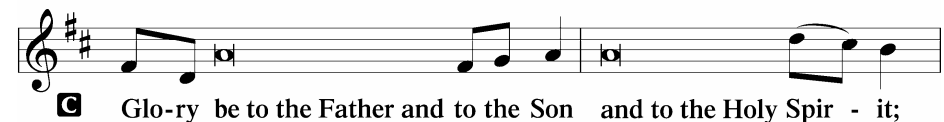
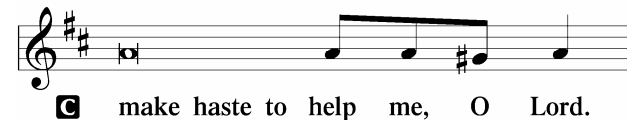
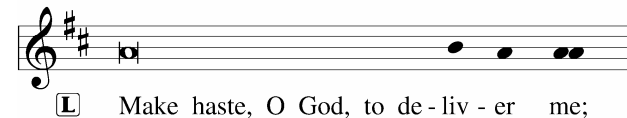
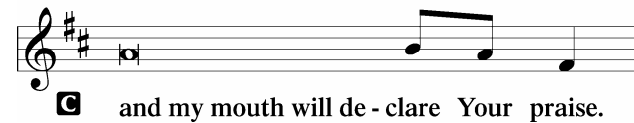
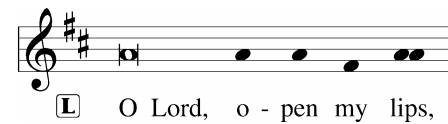
Benedicamus



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 salvation.



Psalmody

Psalm 24



The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,*
 the world and those who | dwell therein,
for he has founded it up- | on the seas*
and established it upon the | rivers.
 Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?*
 And who shall stand in his | holy place?
He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,*
who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not
swear de- | ceitfully.
 He will receive blessing | from the LORD*
 and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.
Such is the generation of those who | seek him,*
who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.
 Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,*
 that the King of glory | may come in.
Who is this King of | glory?*
The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in | battle!
 Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O | ancient doors,*
 that the King of glory | may come in.
Who is this King of | glory?*
The LORD of hosts, he is the King of | glory!
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.
 The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,*
 the world and those who | dwell therein,
for he has founded it up- | on the seas*
and established it upon the | rivers.



Collects



Collect for Ad Te Levavi (Advent 1)

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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

Almighty and eternal God, Your Son, Jesus, triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do Your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Collect for the Church

Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain the light of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.





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.

C 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



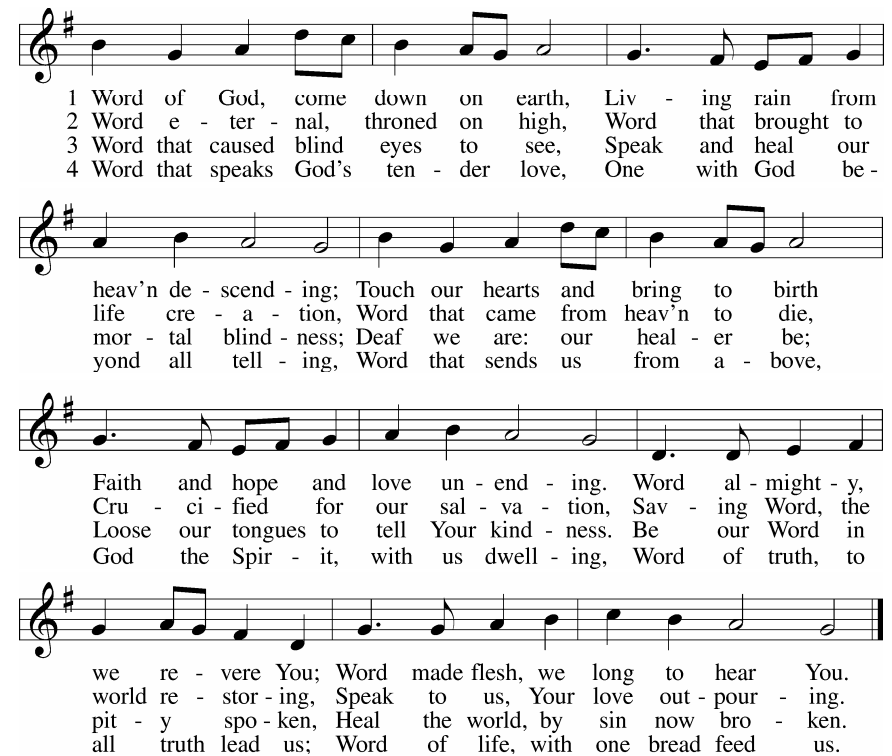
C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

The Lord's Prayer

- C** 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: 545 "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our
4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,

Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the
Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.
world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.
pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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Readings

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, “Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire anymore, lest I die.” And the LORD said to me, “They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’—

when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 4:10-16

He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory—Advent

Jeremiah 23:5a, 6

Verse *To Refrain*



L 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a right-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.

Refrain




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

The Sermon: “Jesus Comes to Be Our Prophet”

Stand

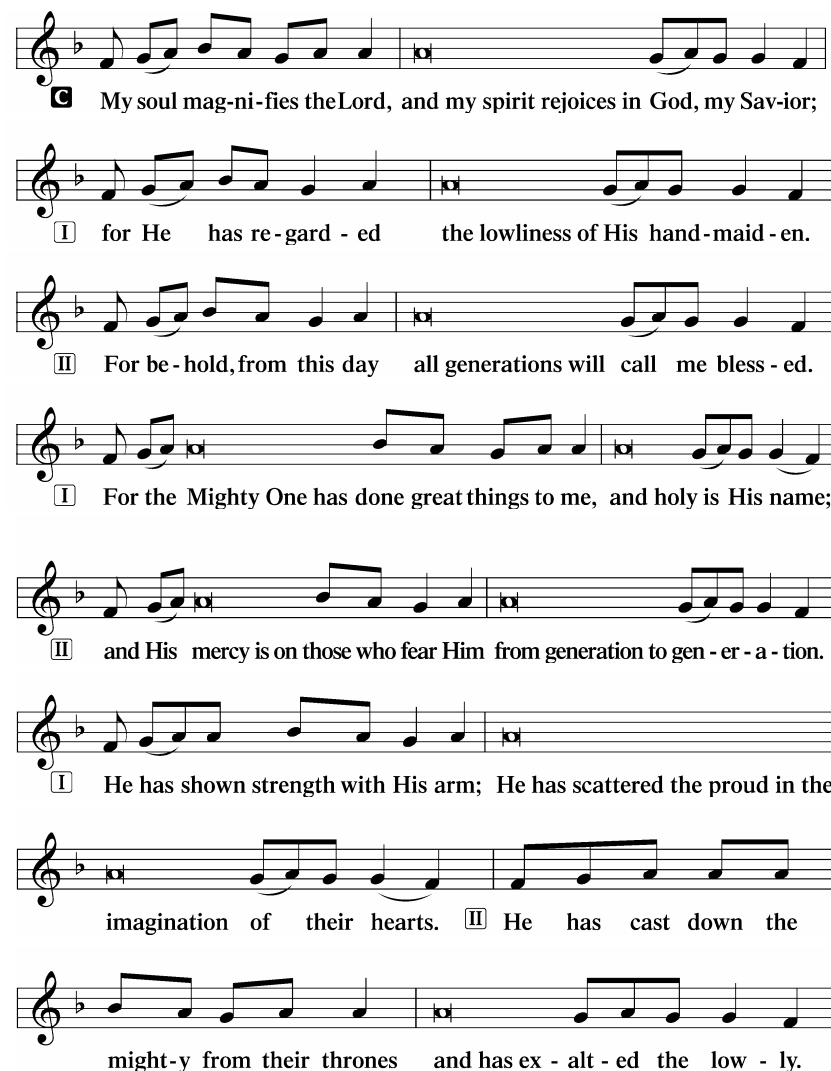
Canticle

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 (sung by choir)



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.