

Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this evening for Service. Tonight, we continue to observe the penitential season of Lent. Lent is:

- a time in which God's baptized people cleanse their hearts through the disciplines of repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving;
- a time in which God's people prepare with joy for the paschal feast of Easter;
- a time in which God renews His people's zeal in faith and life;
- a time in which we pray that we may be given the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

If you are visiting with us this evening, we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by signing the guest book which is in the hallway on the left as you exit the nave. The Lord be with you this evening and throughout this Lententide, that you may be led to true repentance and faith in the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Amen!

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

"The Wound of Abandonment"

Our Lord Jesus has suffered wounds inflicted by fallen, sinful human beings: betrayal by Judas, apathy from His disciples, denial by Peter, and mockery from Roman soldiers. Is it possible for our Lord to suffer at the hands of God His Father? Not only has our Lord suffered the wound of abandonment from His fellow human beings, but He also suffers abandonment from His heavenly Father. However, this wound of abandonment heals our alienation from God. Our Lord's abandonment on the cross rescues us from our sin and death and restores us to life with God.

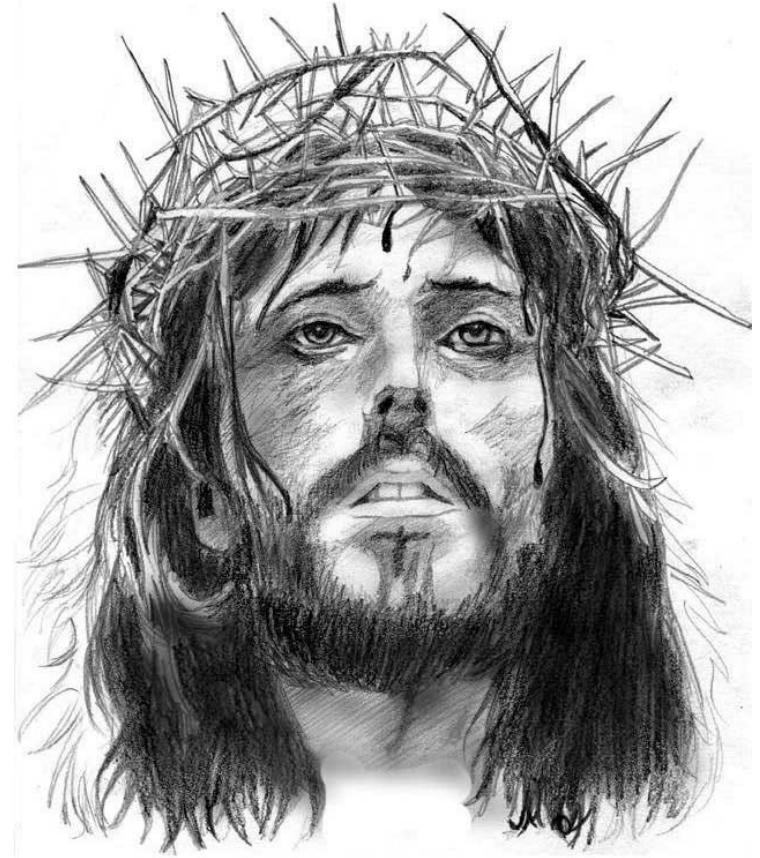
Our Mission Statement

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.

Judica Midweek Vespers

Sixth Wednesday in Lent

1 April Anno † Domini 2009



*"Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Lenten Series
Part 6: "The Wound of Abandonment"*

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

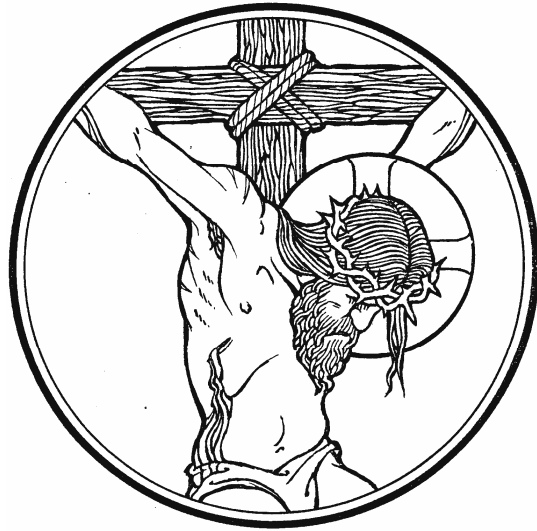
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Judica Midweek Vespers

Sixth Wednesday in Lent
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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.

Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

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

Collect for Peace

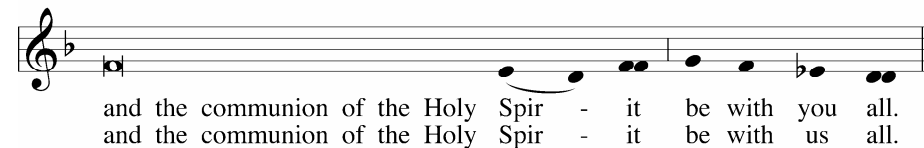
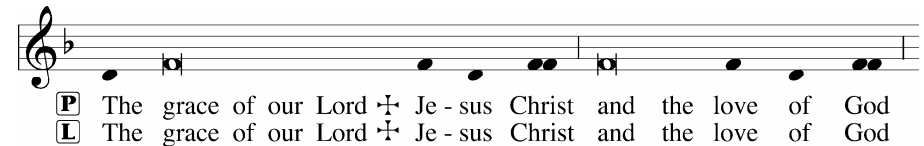
O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through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



Benedicamus



Benediction



Sit

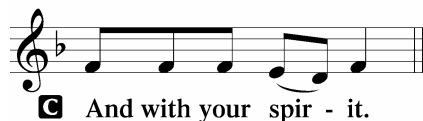
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ Drawn from the Four Gospels

Part V: Calvary

(At the conclusion of the reading, the acolytes and pastor depart the nave. After they have departed, the congregation departs in silence.)

Soli Deo Gloria!

Salutation and Collects



Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

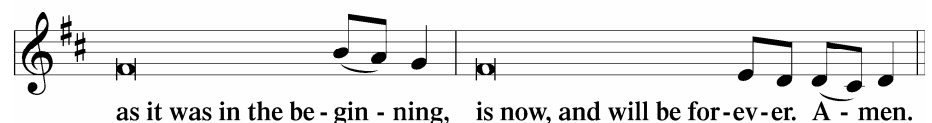
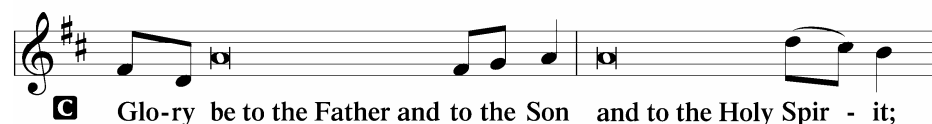
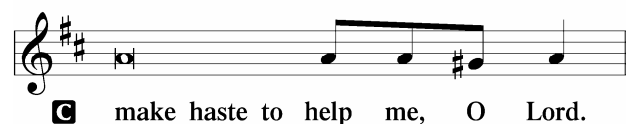
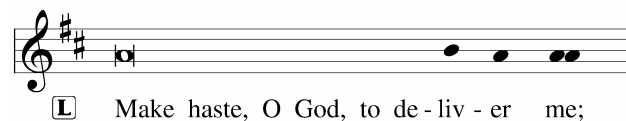
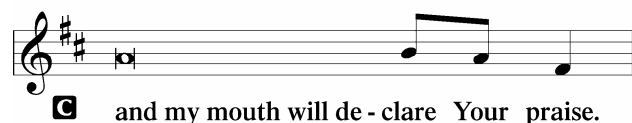
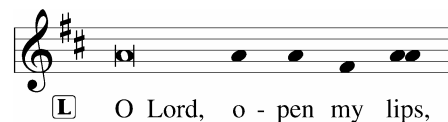


Additional Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, we adore Your love and praise Your compassion. We bless You for Your bonds and stripes, for Your crown of thorns and painful cross, for Your bitter agony and death. We bless You that, though You knew no sin, You were made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in You. May the contemplation of Your holy Passion give us an abiding sense of our own unworthiness and of Your surpassing grace, that, being distressed by our sin, we may be comforted by Your merit. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; do not forsake us in adversity and distress and in the hour of death, but have mercy on us and grant us Your peace. As You have loved us, even so may we, withdrawing our affections from the world and the things that are in the world, love You alone. And as You have left us an example, enable us to follow in Your steps. Grant that, looking to You, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, we may run with patience the race that is set before us and hereafter obtain the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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 (antiphon: vv. 4-5)



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?

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.

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.

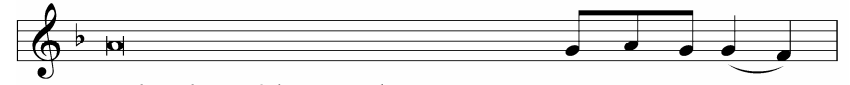
Restore us again O God of our sal- | vation,*
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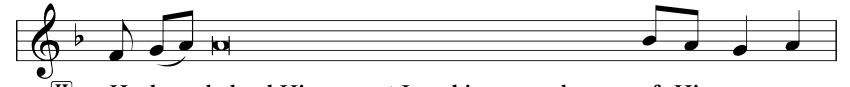
Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?



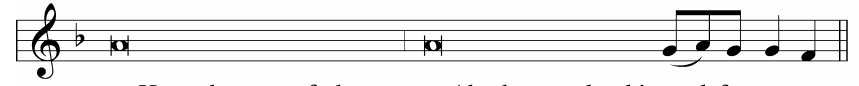
I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



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.

Prayer

Kyrie Eleison ~ Lord, have mercy



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

Lord's Prayer

V **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;

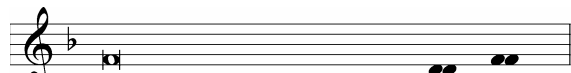
and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

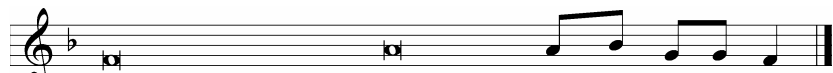
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

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.

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

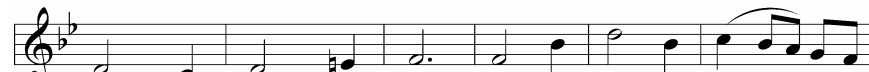


might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.

Office Hymn: 427 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - dianc
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

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

Readings

The First Reading

Jeremiah 30:10-17, 22-24

¹⁰“Then fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the LORD, nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid. ¹¹For I am with you to save you, declares the LORD; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means have you unpunished.

¹²“For thus says the LORD: Your hurt is incurable, and your wound is grievous. ¹³There is none to uphold your cause, no medicine for your wound, no healing for you. ¹⁴All your lovers have forgotten you; they care nothing for you; for I have dealt you the blow of an enemy, the punishment of a merciless foe, because your guilt is great, because your sins are flagrant. ¹⁵Why do you cry out over your hurt? Your pain is incurable. Because your guilt is great, because your sins are flagrant, I have done these things to you.

¹⁶“Therefore all who devour you shall be devoured, and all your foes, every one of them, shall go into captivity; those who plunder you shall be plundered, and all who prey on you I will make a prey. ¹⁷For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the LORD, because they have called you an outcast: ‘It is Zion, for whom no one cares!’ . . .

²²“And you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

²³“Behold the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. ²⁴The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intentions of his mind. In the latter days you will understand this.”

Silence for meditation upon God’s Word

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Hebrews 11:32-12:3

³²And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Silence for meditation upon God's Word

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Third Reading

Matthew 27:45-50

²⁴Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Silence for meditation upon God's Word

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Responsory—Lent

Psalm 51:14; 59:1; 141:8



L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my sal - va - tion.



C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me from those who rise a - gainst me.

Hymn: 450 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (stzs. 1-6)



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;
4 My Shep - herd, now re - ceive me; My Guard - ian, own me Thine.
5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
How doth Thy face now lan - guish That once was bright as morn!
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
Great bless - ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di - vine.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
Thy lips have of - ten fed me With words of truth and love;
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.
Thy Spir - it oft hath led me To heav'n - ly joys a - bove.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.

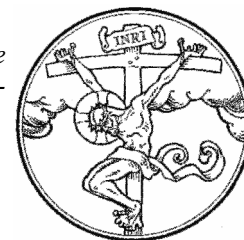
6 My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!

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Sermon: "The Wound of Abandonment" (Matt. 27:45-50)

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