

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

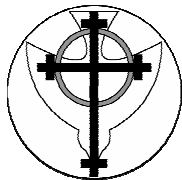
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Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this morning for Divine Service. Rejoice, for throughout this Easter Season we celebrate our Lord's victory over sin, death, and the devil, which is made certain by His glorious resurrection from the tomb. Death could not keep its hold on the Son of God—He lives! And, because He lives, He comes to us here in this place to give us 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 morning, 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 nave. The Lord be with us in Divine Service this morning!

Holy Communion Practice

- The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. In preparation for receiving this blessed Sacrament, you may refer to Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on pages 329-330 in *LSB*.
- Communicants at this altar are to be in full confessional fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the LCMS are asked, out of love and Christian responsibility, to refrain from partaking with us this morning. If you have any questions regarding Holy Communion, you are invited and encouraged to speak with the pastor before or after the Service.
- See Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

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.

Misericordias Domini

The Third Sunday of Easter

6 April Anno † Domini 2008



"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

Misericordias Domini is the shortened form of the opening line of the Historic Introit in Latin and means, "The goodness of the Lord."

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LSB DIVINE SERVICE 1, PAGE 151

The Service of Preparation

(Even with the celebratory spirit of this Easter Season, silence should still be observed upon entering the nave to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

Preparatory Prayer

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.

The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

(At the conclusion of the Ringing of the Bells, the congregation stands and faces the processional cross for the Easter Proclamation and Procession. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)

The Easter Proclamation and Remembrance of Baptism:

- P** He is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P** Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we have been raised with Christ to new life;
- C** we have been given the new birth of water and of the Spirit.

The Processional Hymn: 711 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

The Confession and Absolution (p. 151)

From Martin Luther’s Sermon for Misericordias Domini John 10:11-16

Let us, therefore, ever be wise and learn to know Christ well, and to know that in his kingdom there are only weak and sickly people, and that it is nothing but a hospital, where the sick and infirm, who need care, are gathered. And yet there are so few who understand that! And this fact seems so obscured that even they who have the Gospel and the Spirit are lacking in the knowledge of it; for it is the most profound wisdom that man can attain. For even though they see that the Scriptures praise this kingdom and speak of its preciousness, yet they do not realize what the words mean, and do not understand that they contain that true wisdom which is far above the wisdom of men. For it is not our wisdom that we deal with, and that we speak of and preach to sensible, prudent and wise people; but it is this, that we go among fools and simpletons, and care for them, not because we find pleasure in so doing, but in order that we may help them to get rid of their sins and foolishness and to find righteousness and true knowledge.

So you see that Christian wisdom does not consist in raising our eyes to that which is lofty and wise, to see ourselves reflected there, but in lowering our eyes to that which is lowly and foolish. Let him who knows this, thank God; for such knowledge will fit him to accommodate himself to, and guide him under, all circumstances in this life. Therefore you will yet find many even among those who preach the Gospel, who have not yet attained it. They never taught us thus before, and we were accustomed to think we did not dare to come to Christ until we had first become perfectly pure. Now you must get out of that way of thinking and come to a proper understanding of Jesus, and learn to know him as a true shepherd.

The Post-Communion Canticle: Thank the Lord (p. 164)

The Post-Communion Collect (p. 166)

The Easter Proclamation:

P He is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Benediction (p. 166)

The Recessional Hymn: 710 “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

The Postlude

Soli Deo Gloria!

The Service of the Word

The Introit

Ps. 33:1, 18-20; antiphon: Ps. 33:5b, 6a



The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. Alle- | luia.*

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made. Alle- | luia.

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you | righteous!*

Praise befits the | upright.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who | fear him,*

on those who hope in his | steadfast love,

that he may deliver their | soul from death*

and keep them alive in | famine.

Our soul waits | for the Lord;*

he is our help | and our shield.

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 full of the steadfast love of the Lord. Alle- | luia.*

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made. Alle- | luia.

The Kyrie (pp. 152-153)

The Hymn of Praise: “This is the Feast” (p. 155)

The Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 156)

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16

¹¹“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.”

The Gradual is omitted during the season of Easter

The Epistle

1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Alleluia and Verse (p. 156 - Common)

(As the Alleluia and Verse is sung, the pastor and crucifer process to the middle of the nave for the reading of the Holy Gospel)

The Holy Gospel

John 10:11-16

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

The Hymn of the Day: 709 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Congregation sings stanzas 1, 3-5; Choir sings stanzas 2 and 6

The Sermon: “What Is Truth?” (John 10:11-16)

The Nicene Creed (p. 158)

The Prayer of the Church (p. 159)

P Lord, in Your mercy;

C hear our prayer.

The Offering is gathered for the Lord’s work (p. 159)

The Offertory (pp. 159-160)

The Service of the Sacrament

(Please read the statement regarding Holy Communion on the back of the bulletin)

The Preface and Proper Preface (pp. 160-161)

The Sanctus (p. 161)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (p. 161)

The Words of Our Lord (p. 162)

The Proclamation of Christ (p. 162)

The Lord’s Prayer (pp. 162-163)

The Pax Domini (p. 163)

The Agnus Dei (P. 163)

Communicants are invited to pray the following:

Before receiving the Sacrament:

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

618 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

735 “Have No Fear, Little Flock”

740 “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

666 “O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe”

461 “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”