

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. O-11

"The Wound of Denial"

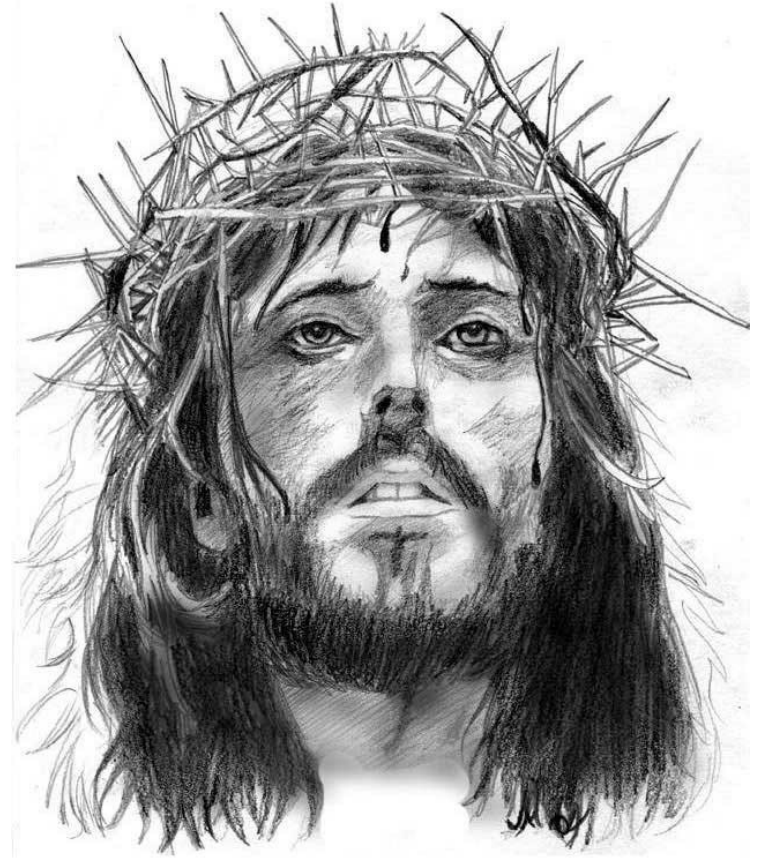
Jesus has been wounded by Judas' betrayal and by the apathy of His disciples, but Peter's denial inflicts a wound even more painful. Peter's denial cuts deeper because he is one of Jesus' closest followers, and his denial is more intentional than apathy. Yet while Jesus suffers Peter's denial, and ours, He remains devoted to winning salvation and life with God for Peter and for us.

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.

Oculi Midweek Vespers

Fourth Wednesday in Lent
18 March Anno † Domini 2009



*"Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Lenten Series
Part 4: "The Wound of Denial"*

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

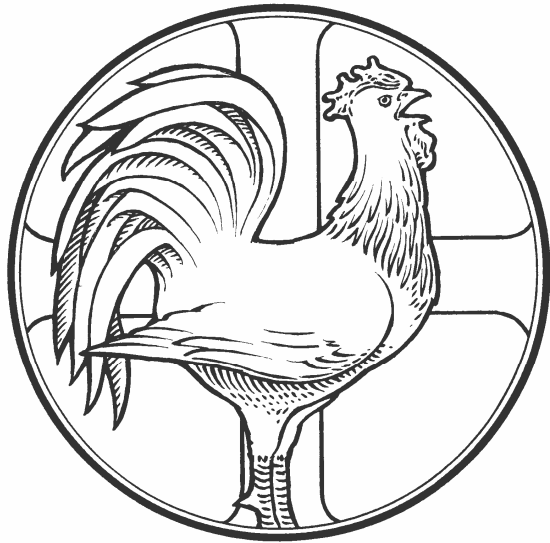
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The Service of Preparation

(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.

Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

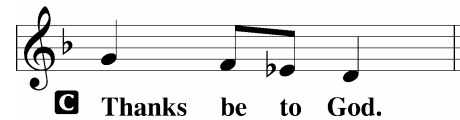
(The congregation stands at the conclusion of the Ringing of the Bells for the Opening Versicles)

Collect for Peace

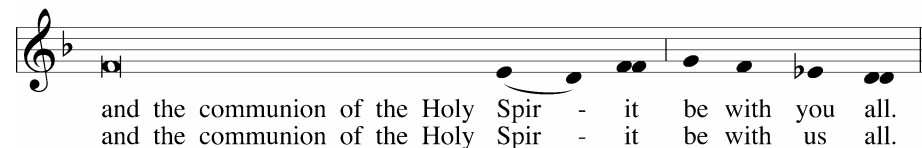
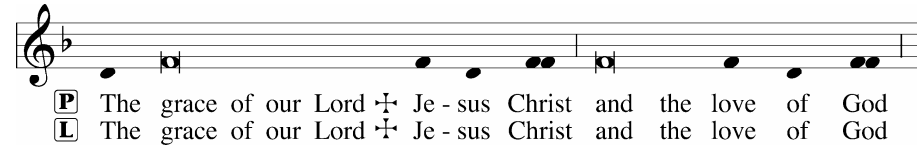
O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through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



Benedicamus



Benediction



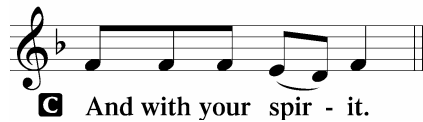
Sit

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ Drawn from the Four Gospels Part III: The Palace of the High Priest

*(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.

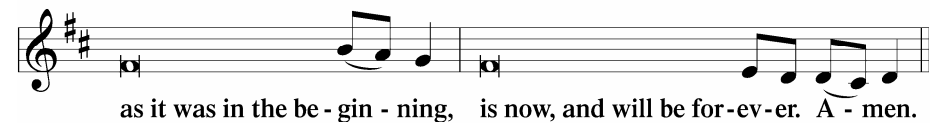
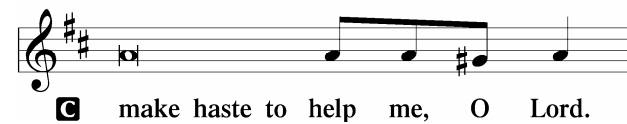
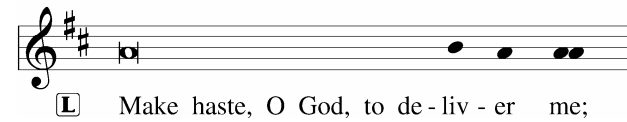
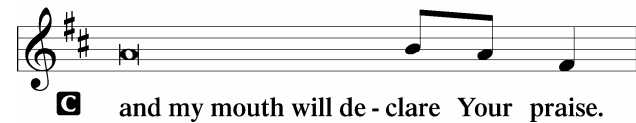
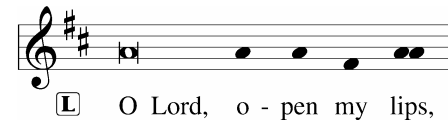


Additional Collect

O God of Sabaoth, Creator and Preserver of all things, in Your infinite mercy You have given Your only-begotten Son to redeem the children of men, that by His innocent death on the cross He should blot out the handwriting of our sins and reconcile the world to You. For His sake, accept our humble praise and graciously hear our supplications. Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins, negligence, and ignorance; and by Your Holy Spirit grant that we may live according to Your Word. Enable us to cast off the works of darkness, which war against the soul, and deliver us from all our enemies, both visible and invisible, which seek to destroy us. Help us to walk by faith in Your sight, to crucify the flesh, and to keep ourselves pure from all unholy thoughts, words, and actions. Incline our hearts to fear, love, and trust in You above all things, and let them be so fixed with steadfast faith in Christ, Your Son, that, being guided by the light of His truth, we may at length obtain the light and joy of heaven, and give all praise and glory to You; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.



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 147:1-11 (*antiphon: v. 1*)



Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.

**The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.**

He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.

**He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.**

Great is our Lord, and abund- | ant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.

**The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.**

Sing to the LORD with thanks- | giving;*
make melody to our God | on the lyre!

**He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain | for the earth;*
he makes the grass grow | on the hills.**

He gives to the | beasts their food,*
and to the young ravens | that cry.

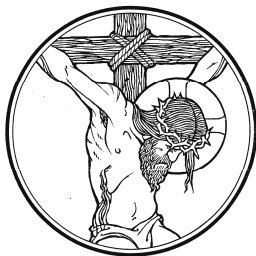
**His delight is not in the strength | of the horse,*
nor his pleasure in the legs | of a man,**
but the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,*
in those who hope in his | steadfast love.

**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.**

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.

Sit



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*

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

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.

Canticle

Antiphon—Common

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

Magnificat ~ Song of Mary

G 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: 435 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -
 by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er
 Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -
 pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

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

Readings

The First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-18

⁵Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰I, the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.

¹¹“Like the partridge that gathers a brood that she did not hatch, so is he who gets rich but not by justice; in the midst of his days they will leave him, and at his end will be a fool.

¹²“A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary. ¹³O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.”

¹⁴“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise. ¹⁵Behold, they say to me, ‘Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!’ ¹⁶I have not run away from being your shepherd, nor have I desired the day of sickness. You know what came out of my lips; it was before your face. ¹⁷Be not a terror to me; you are my refuge in the day of disaster. ¹⁸Let those be put to shame who persecute me, but let me not be put to shame; let them be dismayed, but let me not be dismayed; bring upon them the day of disaster; destroy them with double destruction!”

Silence for meditation upon God’s Word

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-19

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And, “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” ¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Silence for meditation upon God’s Word

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

The Third Reading

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” ⁷¹And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁷²And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” ⁷³After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

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. 1-4)



- 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.



- 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.



- 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;



- Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
- Thus 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.

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Music: Public domain

Sermon: “The Wound of Denial” (Matt. 26:69-75)

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