

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Populus Zion Midweek Vespers

Second Wednesday in Advent

10 December Anno ✝ Domini 2008

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.

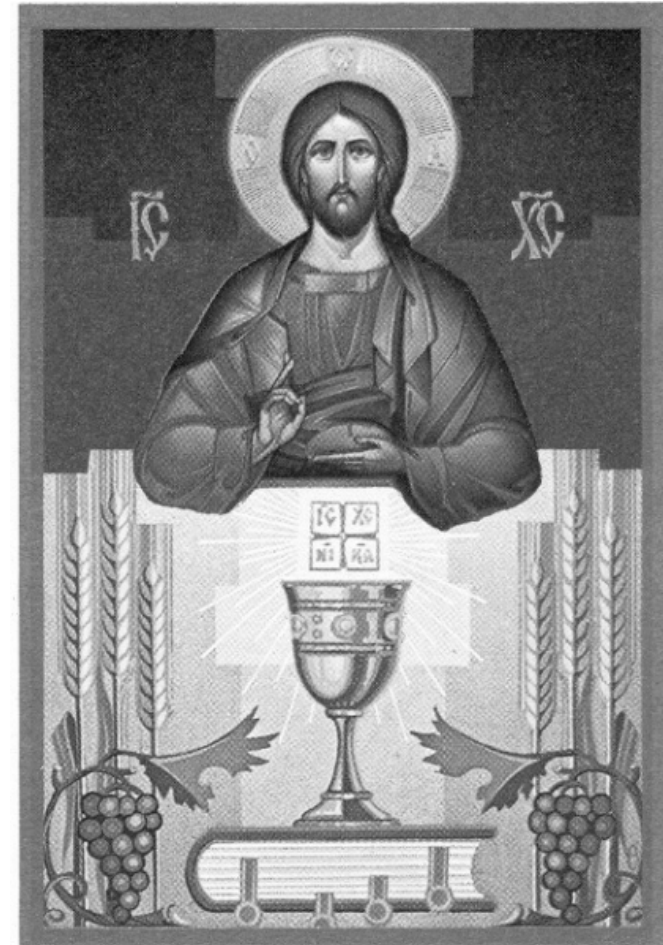
—*Treasury of Daily Prayer, p. 0-11*

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 continue this series, we meditate upon the fact that Jesus comes to be our Priest.

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.



“The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but [Jesus] holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.” (Hebrews 7:23-24)

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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

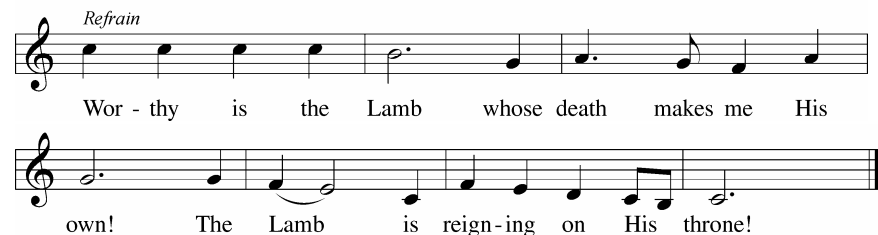
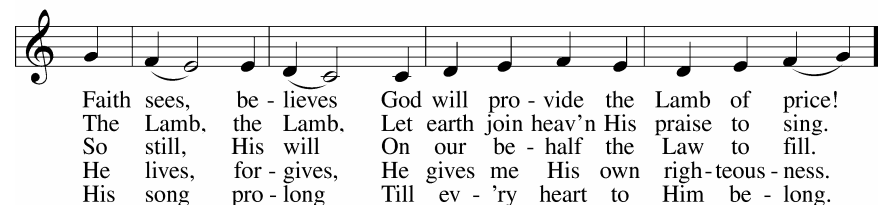
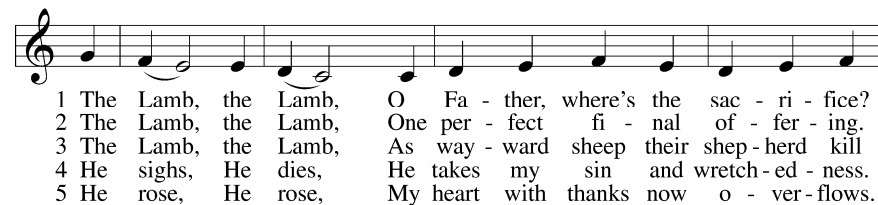
Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

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: 547 "The Lamb"



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Soli Deo Gloria!

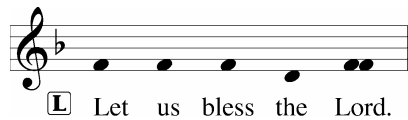


Collect for Peace

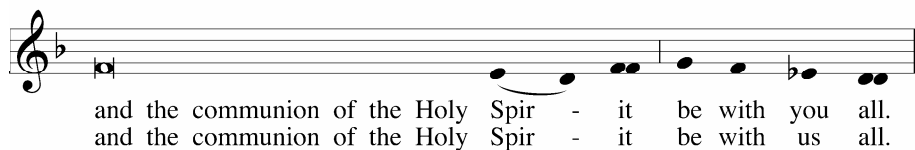
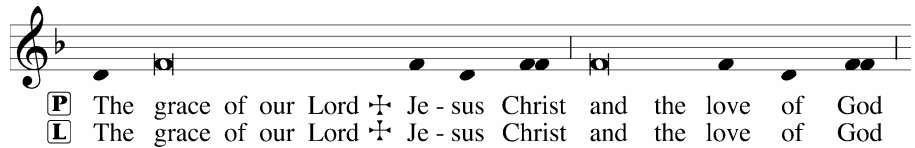
O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through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



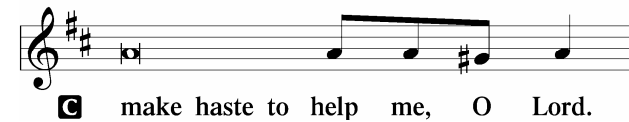
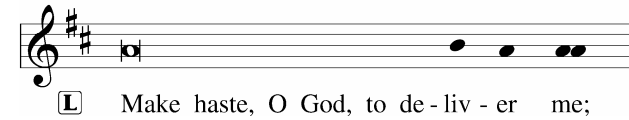
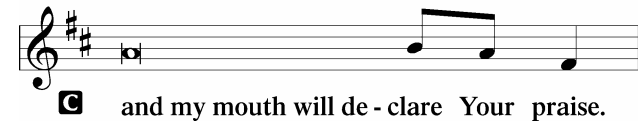
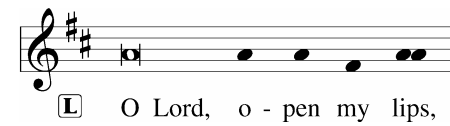
Benedicamus



Benediction



Opening Versicles



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 50



Call upon me in the day of | trouble;*

I will deliver you, and you shall glo- | rify me.”

**The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and sum- | mons the earth*
from the rising of the sun to its | setting.**

Out of Zion, the perfection of | beauty,*

God | shines forth.

Our God comes; he does not keep | silence;*

before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty | tempest.

He calls to the heav- | ens above*

and to the earth, that he may judge his | people:

“**Gather to me my | faithful ones,***

who made a covenant with me by | sacrifice!”

The heavens declare his | righteousness,*

for God him- | self is judge!

“**Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify a- | gainst you.***

I am | God, your God.

Not for your sacrifices do I re- | buke you;*

your burnt offerings are continually be- | fore me.

I will not accept a bull | from your house*

or goats | from your folds.

For every beast of the for- | est is mine,*

the cattle on a | thousand hills.

I know all the birds | of the hills,*

and all that moves in the | field is mine.

“If I were hungry, I would not | tell you,*

for the world and its full- | ness are mine.

Do I eat the | flesh of bulls*

or drink the | blood of goats?

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanks- | giving,*

and perform your vows to the | Most High,

and call upon me in the day of | trouble;*

I will deliver you, and you shall glo- | rify me.”

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

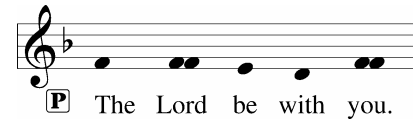
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Call upon me in the day of | trouble;*

I will deliver you, and you shall glo- | rify me.”

**The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and sum- | mons the earth*
from the rising of the sun to its | setting.**

Collects



P The Lord be with you.



G And with your spir - it.



P Let us pray.

Collect for Populus Zion (Advent 2)

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

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

O God of love, those who abide in love abide in You, and You abide in them. Give us such perfect love of You and our neighbor that all fear may be cast out of our hearts and we may with confidence greet You on the Day of Judgment; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



G A - men.

Collect for the Blessedness of Heaven

Almighty, everlasting God, You gave Your only Son to be a High Priest of good things to come. Grant unto us, Your unworthy servants, to have our share in the company of the blessed for all eternity; 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: 564 "Christ Sits at God's Right Hand"

1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,
2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,
3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half
4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!

To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—
Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:
He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,
Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?

All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,
"A priest for - ev - er - more," An oath God would not break,
To seal God's guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;
His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured

When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."
"A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek."
With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.
That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 Then let us now draw near, Washed in that precious flood And enter the Most Holy Place By Jesus' blood. From hearts that are sincere, Let tongues our hope profess, And trust anew God's faithful grace That we confess. | △ 6 All praise to Christ we bring, Our Lord who intercedes, Our great High Priest enthroned above Who knows our needs; And to the Father sing Our songs of thankful praise, Who with the Spirit reigns in love For endless days. |
|---|---|

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Readings

The First Reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but [Jesus] holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heav-

ens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their wickedness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

1 John 2:1-6

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says, "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

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 righteous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell secure - 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 Righteousness.

The Sermon: "Jesus Comes to Be Our Priest"

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.