

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 Apathy"

When Jesus suffers the weight of the world's sin, He also suffers the wound of our apathy. The word *apathy* means "without feeling or concern." When the disciples fall asleep during Jesus' hour of intense suffering, they show little feeling or concern for Him. As He did with the disciples, Jesus also exhorts us to watch with Him by praying. However, the cure for our apathy comes not from praying, but from the Savior who suffered intensely and still wants His apathetic disciples.

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.

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Reminiscere Midweek Vespers

Third Wednesday in Lent
11 March Anno † Domini 2009



*"Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Lenten Series
Part 3: "The Wound of Apathy"*

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

325 E. Warwick Dr. ~ Alma, Michigan ~ 48801
463-5754 ~ www.peacealma.org

Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor

Home: 463-3093 ~ Cell: (989) 388-2037 ~ pastor@peacealma.org

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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.

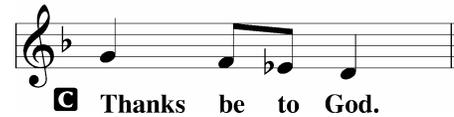
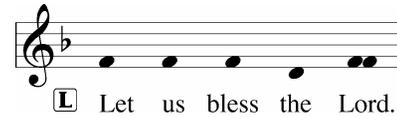
Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

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

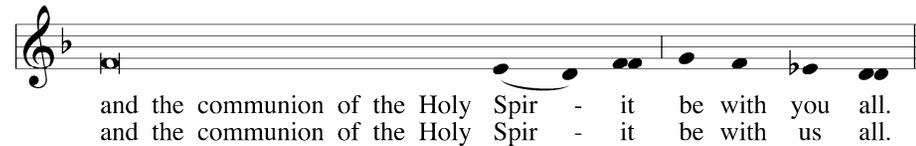
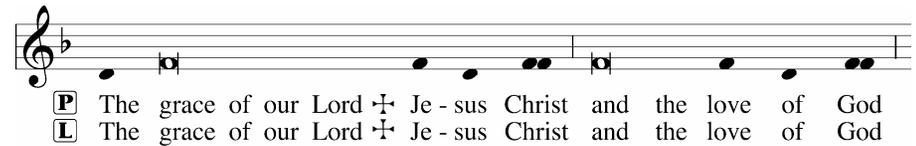
our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benedicamus



Benediction



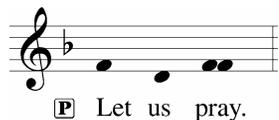
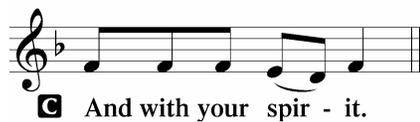
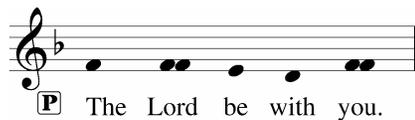
Sit

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ Drawn from the Four Gospels Part II: Gethsemane

(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

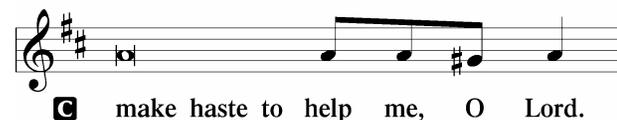
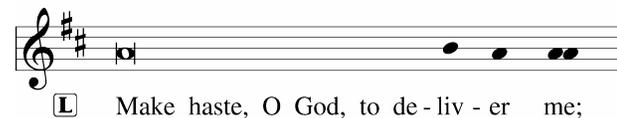
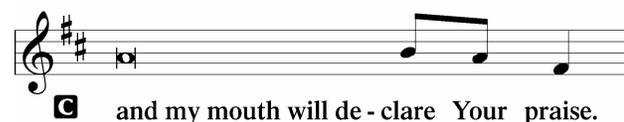
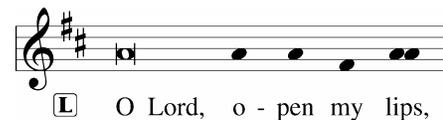
Almighty and everlasting God, our Father in heaven, from You comes every good and perfect gift, and so do we present ourselves before You in the name of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, with a deep sense of our unworthiness and guilt but also with boldness and confidence in Your infinite mercy. Grant us the remission of all our sins, and make us to know the blessedness of those to whom You do not impute iniquity. Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Impart to us the power of that faith which overcomes the world, the flesh, and the devil. Fill our hearts with love for You and charity toward all our neighbors in the world. Establish in us the hope of everlasting glory. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to every good work, and make us to grow daily in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose dear name we pray.



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

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 30 (antiphon: v. 10)



Hear, O LORD, and be merci- | ful to me!*

O LORD, be my | helper!

**I will extol you, O LORD, for you have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.**

O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*
and you have | healed me.

**O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.**

Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a | lifetime.*

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the | morning.

As for me, I said in my pros- | perity,*
“I shall nev- | er be moved.”

**By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain | stand strong;*
you hid your face; I | was dismayed.**

To you, O | LORD, I cry,*
and to the Lord I plead for | mercy:

“What profit is there in my death, if I go down | to the pit?*

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your | faithfulness?

Hear, O LORD, and be merci | ful to me!*

O LORD, be my | helper!”

**You have turned for me my mourning into | dancing;*
you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with | gladness,
that my glory may sing your praise and not be | silent.***

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for- | ever!

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.

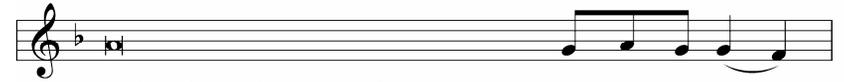
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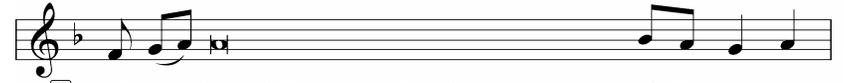
Sit



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



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,
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: 429 “We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died”

1 We sing the praise of Him who died, Of Him who
2 In - scribed up - on the cross we see In shin - ing
3 The cross! It takes our guilt a - way; It holds the
4 It makes the cow - ard spir - it brave And nerves the
died up - on the cross. The sin - ner's hope let
let - ters, “God is love.” He bears our sins up -
faint - ing spir - it up; It cheers with hope the
fee - ble arm for fight; It takes the ter - ror
all de - ride; For this we count the world but loss.
on the tree; He brings us mer - cy from a - bove.
gloom - y day And sweet - ens ev - 'ry bit - ter cup.
from the grave And gilds the bed of death with light;

- 5 The balm of life, the cure of woe, 6 To Christ, who won for sinners grace
The measure and the pledge of love, By bitter grief and anguish sore,
The sinner's refuge here below, Be praise from all the ransomed race
The angels' theme in heav'n above. Forever and forevermore.

Text (sts. 1-6) and Music: Public domain.

Readings

The First Reading

1 Kings 19:1-8

¹Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” ³Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” ⁵And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.” ⁶And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.” ⁸And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

Silence for meditation upon God's Word

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

The Second Reading

Revelation 3:14-22

¹⁴“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

¹⁵“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Silence for meditation upon God’s Word

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Third Reading

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, you will be done.” ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

Silence for meditation upon God’s Word

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

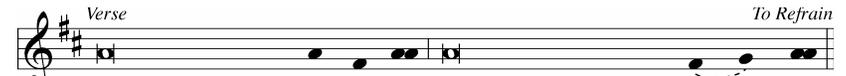
C Thanks be to God.

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. 1-3)



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;



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.



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;



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.

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Music: Public domain

Sermon: “The Wound of Apathy” (Matt. 26:36-46)

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