

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

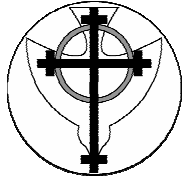
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Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this morning for Divine Service. Rejoice, for 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 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 sanctuary. The Lord be with us in Divine Service this morning!

A Note About Today's Service

Holy Communion will not be celebrated during our Service this morning due to Pastor Messer's absence. We will follow the Service of Prayer and Preaching. Elder Larry Elliott and Elder Terry Luplow will lead God's people during the Service, and we pray God's blessings upon them. The sermon you will hear was written by Pastor Messer.

About the Season of Pre-Lent

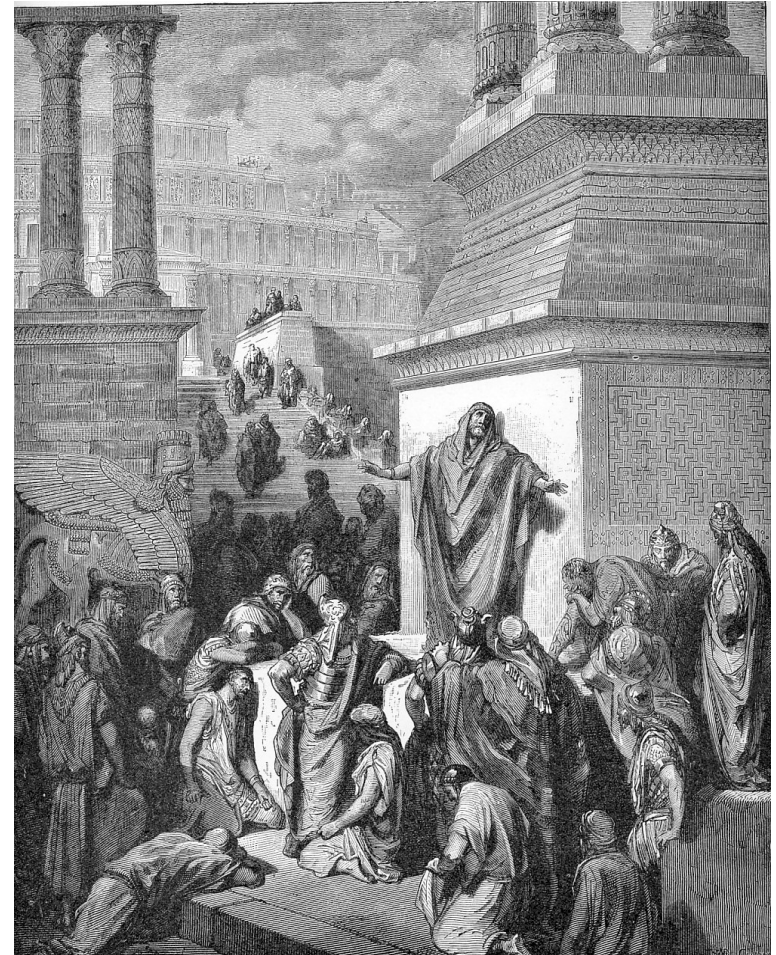
The season of Pre-Lent serves to ease the transition for the faithful from the joy of the Epiphany season into the holy, penitential nature of the season of Lent. Pre-Lent starts at about 70 days out from Easter to parallel the 70 years of the Babylonian captivity of the ancient Israelites. This parallel reminds us that we are each called by God and taken on a journey from the exile and captivity of sin to our promised home in the New Jerusalem to come on the Last Day. The Sundays in Pre-Lent are named after the time out from Easter they signify (they do not correspond to the exact times): Septuagesima means "seventieth"; Sexagesima means "sixtieth"; Quinquagesima means "fiftieth."

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.

Sexagesima

15 February Anno ✝ Domini 2009



Jonah Calling Nineveh to Repentance is from The Doré Bible Gallery (~1886)

"As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience." (Luke 8:15)

Sexagesima

15 February Anno ✠ Domini 2009



SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING, PAGE 260

(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)

Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

The Opening Hymn: 904 “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

Stand

Opening Versicles - Common (p. 260)

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- C** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- L** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- C** Teach me Your paths.
- L** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- C** Your Word is truth.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Canticle (pp. 261-262)

Collect for the Word

- L** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Morning Prayer

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

New Testament Canticle (pp. 266-267)

Blessing (p. 267)

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

The Closing Hymn: 920 “Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go”

The Postlude

Soli Deo Gloria!

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 (pp. 265-266)

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

L O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Readings from Holy Scripture:

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

Ps. 83:18, 13

[Let your enemies] know that you alone, whose name is the Lord,*
are the Most High over all the earth.

**O my God, make them like whirling dust,*
like chaff before the wind.**

The Epistle

Hebrews 4:9-13

⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Tract

Ps. 60:1-2, 5

(During the three Sundays of Pre-Lent, the Alleluia is replaced by the Tract—Choir)

O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; oh, restore us. You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open; repair its breaches, for it totters. That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

Stand

The Holy Gospel

Luke 8:4-15

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 8th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn: 824 “May God Bestow on Us His Grace”

Responsory - Common (p. 263)

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Stand

Catechism (p. 264)

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin

Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and

was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the

right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

Sermon: “The Sower and the Seed” (Luke 8:4-15)

The sermon was written by Pastor Messer. It is read by Elder Luplow.

Hymn: 655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”