

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
February 23, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Christian Magnell

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come, Follow Me”

Celebration Singers

WELCOME AND GREETING

HYMN

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Good morning, Lord, we thank you for a new day!

And we thank you that Your Holy Spirit is moving among us.

You have called us to live Christ-like lives and to stand strong against the schemes of the devil.

Yet so often we ignore that, and give in to despair, defeat, and sin. *(time for reflection)*

Let us pray together:

Lord God, we have sinned against you in thought, in word, and in deed. We’ve failed to love you with our whole hearts. We haven’t loved our neighbors as ourselves. We ask for forgiveness every day and the guidance of your Spirit as we live our lives.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We live for God, and we serve the world around us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON

“Wear Your Gear!”

HYMN

“Death Was Arrested”

READING: Ephesians 6:1-24

Paul continues to talk about how we are to live, and then switches to the topic of spiritual warfare and teaches us how God equips us to do battle.

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. ⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a

sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing

that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of

salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. ²¹ So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. ²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts. ²³ Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good. **All the time.**

SECOND READING: James 4:7-10

Resist the devil. Along with Paul's words about the Armor of God, we are given the pattern for spiritual warfare: Look to God and resist the devil.

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be

wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time. **God is good!**

HYMN *"Holy Forever"*

SERMON – "Stand Strong – Ephesians Week 6"

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER & BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

Amen!

CLOSING SONG

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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**Protective Armor – February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

***Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand firm. - Ephesians 6:13***

I'm thinking about the end of ski season and the beginning of spring as I type this. And I'm reflecting back to skiing, in high school, at Bear Mountain in southern California. I was with my ski club, and part way through the day, I was skiing down a relatively steep run with moguls when I caught the edge of one of my skis and it popped off. I didn't fall, so I skied to where I could stop and looked up to see where I had left my ski.

As I turned around, I saw a little blood on the ground. Putting my hand to my head, I realized it was from me. As the ski had popped off, it also popped up and grazed my head. I really didn't feel it. And my head was not hurting. It was warm and I was not wearing a hat, and this was a long time before people started wearing helmets. It was a small cut, but deep enough that it bled a lot and required stitches!

Fast forward – people started wearing helmets when skiing! Seems like common sense now, but it took some adjusting. But it occurs to me that this time I got hurt could have been prevented if we had worn helmets back then!

Today's verses are all about wearing the Armor of God. It's not if - but when - danger occurs in our world. God has given us protection – the Armor of God - as we read about. Take time this week to re-read those verses and pray about how that armor operates in your life.

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