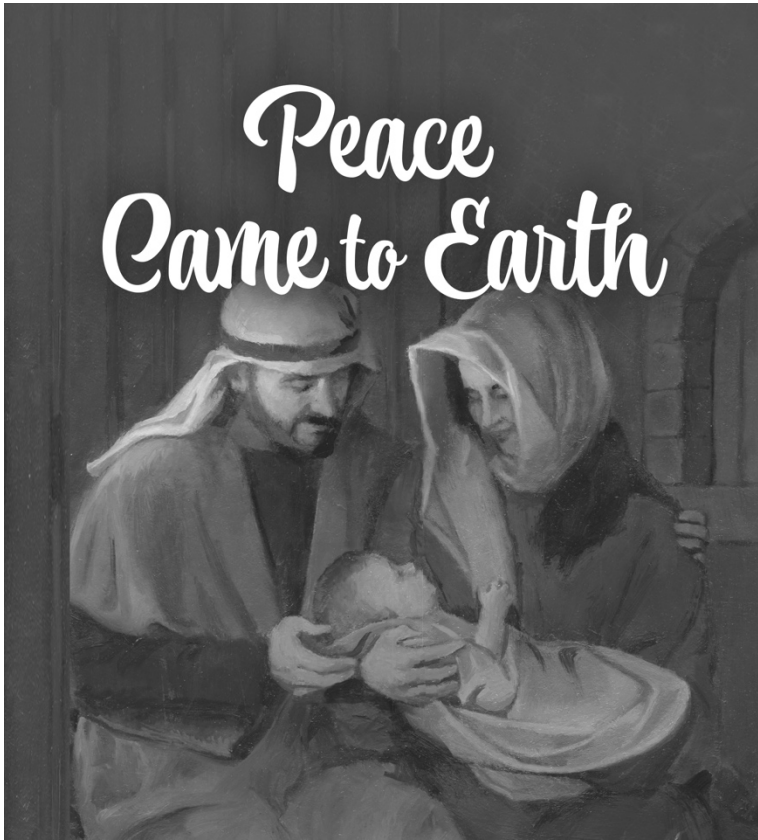


Peace Came to Earth



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Disciple Making Community”

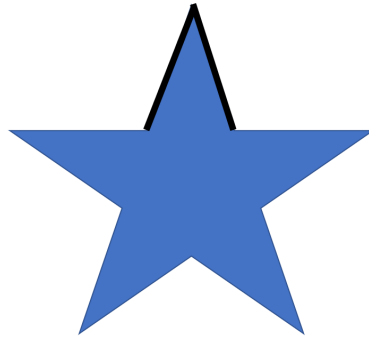
“KNOW, GROW, and GO”

West Salem, Wisconsin

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Midweek Advent Service

December 6, 2023



Theme

The season of Advent is filled with the relentless seeking of things. Shopping is in full swing, and we hear the promise again and again: If we have all the right stuff, buy all the perfect gifts, attend all the posh parties, and decorate with all the trendy decorations, then we will feel complete and at peace. Counter this line of thinking with what God’s Word teaches us about contentment. The apostle Paul writes, “Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content” (1 Timothy 6:6-8). As we pause during this first week of Advent and pray for the Lord to stir up our hearts for the arrival of His Son, we remember the story of the ancient Magi, who followed the star and found contentment in the King who had been born to save them. Jesus now invites us also to follow Him and receive from Him that same peace, that “godliness with contentment,” which the Magi also received.

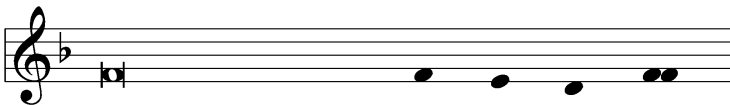
Evening Prayer

Service of Light

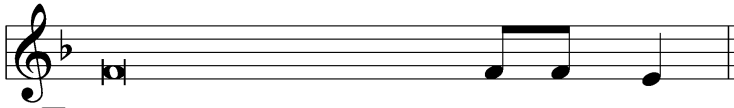
Stand

Versicles

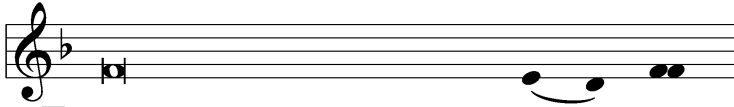
John 8:12; John 1:5; Luke 24:29; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6



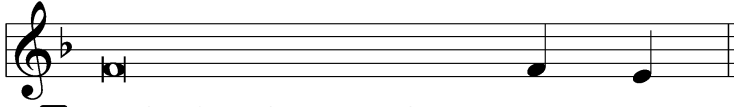
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



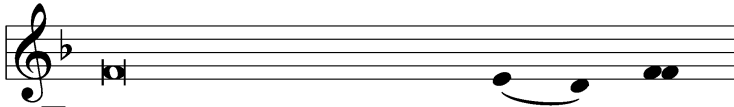
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.



L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

Phos Hilaron



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



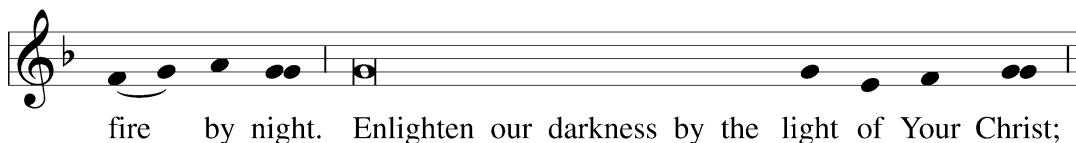
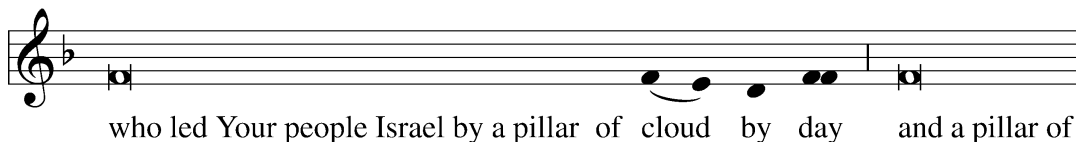
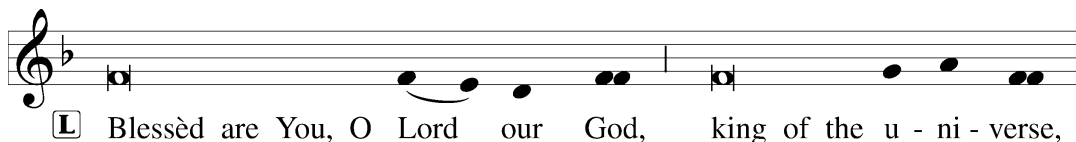
C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the

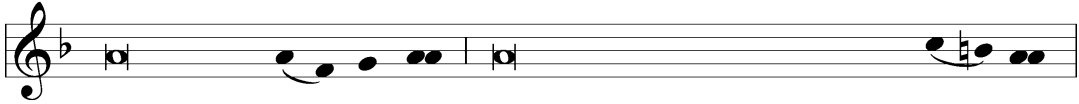


Thanksgiving for Light





may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.



 A - men.

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 80:1-7; antiphon: v. 7

Restore us, O | God of hosts;*

let Your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

You who lead Joseph | like a flock!*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,*

stir up Your might

and come to | save us!

Restore us, | O God;*

let Your face shine, that we | may be saved!

O LORD | God of hosts,*

how long will You be angry with Your | people's prayers?

You have fed them with the | bread of tears*

and given them tears to drink in full | measure.

You make us an object of contention for our | neighbors,*

and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.

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.**

Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let Your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Prayer

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by the light of Your Holy Word, we may be drawn to Jesus and lay our lives before Him in worship, receiving from Him the gift of perfect peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G Amen.**

Hymn

Peace Came to Earth

Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed His might—
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!
Who could but sing: Immanuel!

And who could be the same for having held
The infant in their arms, and later felt
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!
Who could but shout: Immanuel!

You show the Father none has ever seen,
In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine You visit us again—
Who could but see Immanuel!
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!

How else could I have known You, O my God!
How else could I have loved You, O my God!
How else could I embrace You, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel!
Who could but praise Immanuel!

Readings

1 Timothy 6:6–9

1 Timothy 6:6–9

L A reading from 1 Timothy, chapter 6.

⁶Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2:1–2, 9–10

Matthew 2:1–2, 9–10

L A reading from Matthew, chapter 2.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Final Reading Response

Hebrews 1:1–2a

L 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 for Advent

- P** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- C** This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
- P** In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.
- C** This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Hymn of the Day

“The Night Will Soon Be Ending”

LSB 337



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -
2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a
3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring
4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our
5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now
child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears
morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows
hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -
night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness
all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not
in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -
round us may in - crease. But now one Star is -
turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - diant
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for
 sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.
 demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.
 new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.
 still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903–42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007
 Tune: Welsh
 Text: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018661
 Tune: Public domain

Sermon “Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near” (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10)

Catechism

- P** I believe in Jesus Christ, [God’s] only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.
- C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

Canticle

Stand

Magnificat

Luke 1:46–55

Refrain



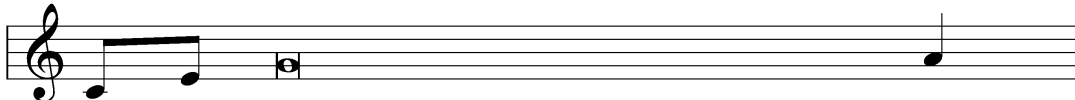
C My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -



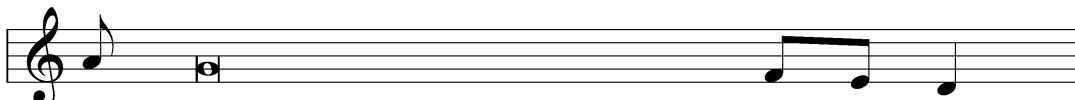
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the



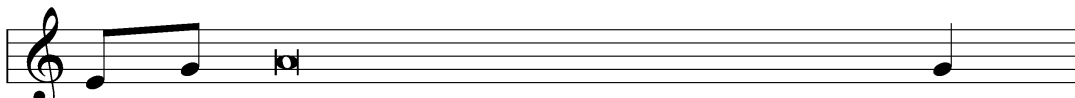
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



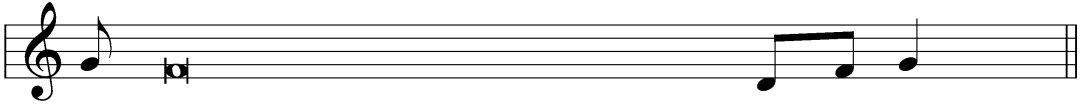
- 1 For _____ He has re - garded
- 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
- 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
- 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
- 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son



- 1 the lowliness of His hand - maiden.
- 2 and holy is His name;
- 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 4 and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.
- 5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;



- 1 For be - hold, from this day
- 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
- 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
- 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
- 5 as it was in the be - ginning,



- 1 all generations will call me blessed.
- 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
- 3 and has exalt - - ed the lowly.
- 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
- 5 is now, and will be forever. A - men. *Refrain*

Sit
Offering

Stand

Litany

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

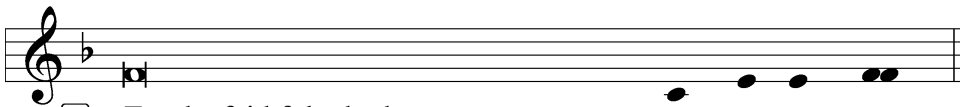


C Lord, have mer - cy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

- L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, 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.**

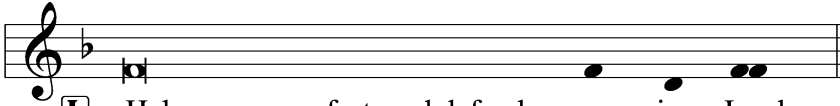
The prayers then continue:



- L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

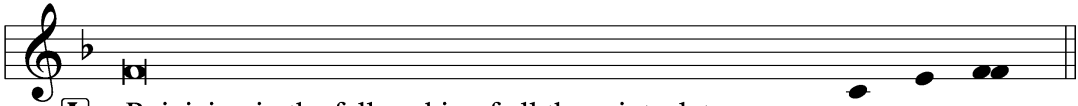


- C** Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

Collect for Peace

L 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.



C A - men.

Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C 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.

Stand

Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]

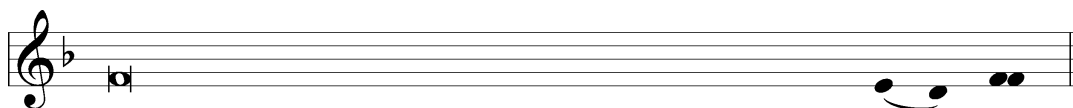


L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

891 O Light Whose Splendor

LSB 891

1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,
With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,
Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,
O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944
Tune: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904
Text: © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018661
Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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Schedule of Services

Date	Theme
Midweek of Advent 1 (Wednesday, Dec. 6)	“Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near”
Midweek of Advent 2 (Wednesday, Dec. 13)	“Peace to All, Near and Far”
Midweek of Advent 3 (Wednesday, Dec. 20)	“Our Peace Rests on Him Alone”
Christmas Day (Monday, Dec. 25)	“The Diamond Found in the Manger”

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Date	Day	Time
Sunday, December 3 and Monday, December 4	First Sunday in Advent	9 a.m. Sunday 7 p.m. Monday
Wednesday, December 6	Advent Midweek 1	7 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday, December 10 and Monday, December 11	Second Sunday in Advent	9 a.m. Sunday 7 p.m. Monday
Wednesday, December 13	Advent Midweek 2	7 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday, December 17 and Monday, December 18	Third Sunday in Advent	9 a.m. Sunday 7 p.m. Monday
Wednesday, December 20	Advent Midweek 3	7 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday, December 24	Fourth Sunday in Advent	9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday, December 24	Christmas Eve	7 p.m. Sunday
Monday, December 25	Christmas Day	9 a.m. Monday <i>No evening service.</i>
Sunday, December 31	First Sunday after Christmas	9 a.m. Sunday
Monday, January 1	New Year’s Day: Circumcision and Name of Jesus	9 a.m. Sunday <i>No evening service.</i>