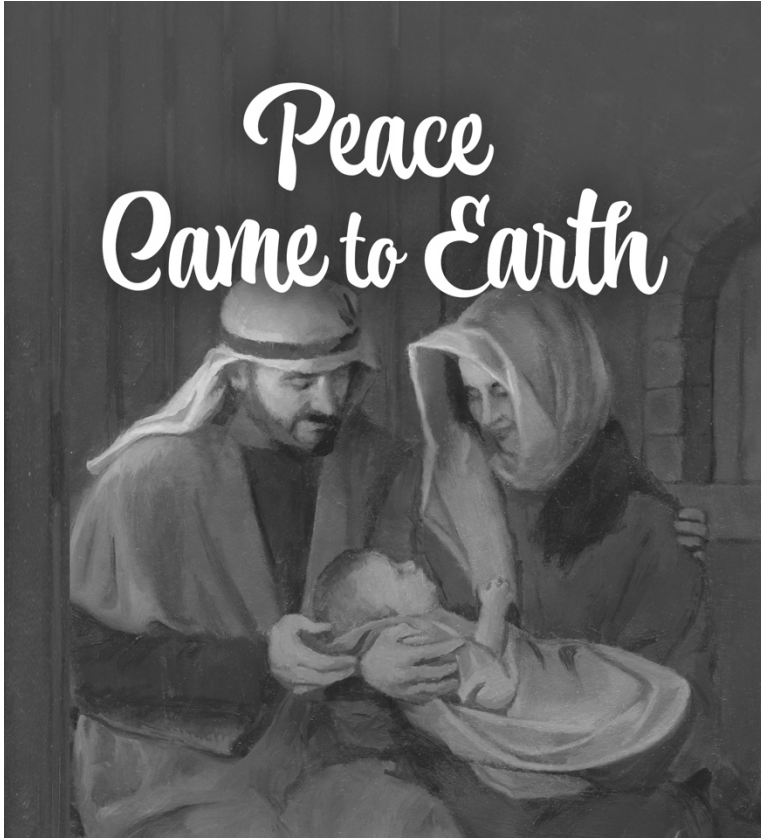


Peace Came to Earth



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 13, 2023



Theme: As we pause to contemplate His Word during this second week of Advent, Jesus comes to us where we are and says, “My peace I give to you” (John 14:27). This peace does not come through our attempts to remove ourselves from reality or rearrange the broken pieces of our past. No, it is only by the grace of God that we now receive His peace, His forgiveness, and His restoration through faith in His promises. Gathering us from far and near, no matter who we are or where we have been, our Advent King gives us His peace by means of His death and resurrection. When we trust in Him, we will not simply feel better with a short-term stillness; we will stand fully forgiven by Jesus and at permanent peace with our God.

Evening Prayer Service of Light

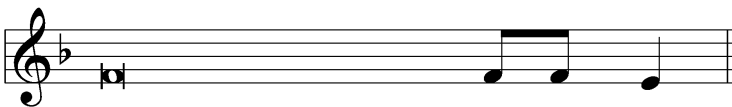
Stand

Versicles

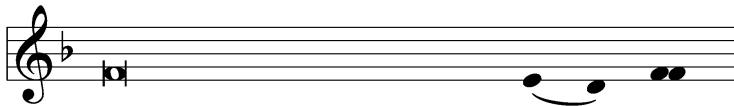
John 8:12; John 1:5; Luke 24:29; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6



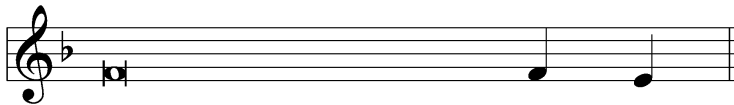
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



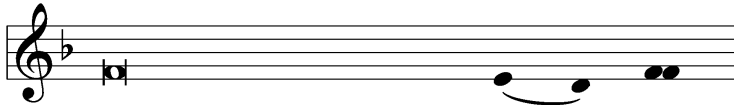
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



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



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

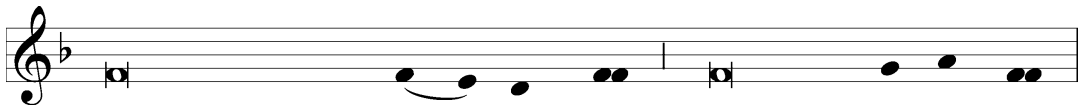


ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:

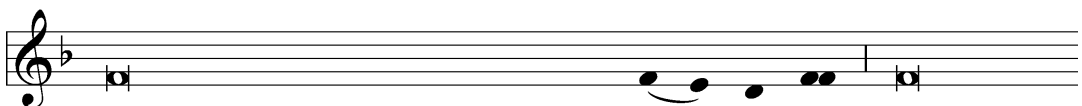


the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

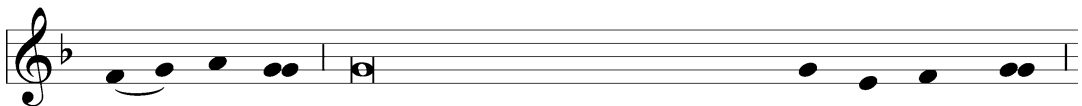
Thanksgiving for Light



L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



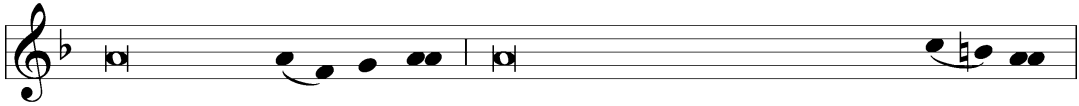
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of



fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;



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.



C A - men.

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 85:1-9; antiphon: v. 9

Surely His salvation is near to those who | fear Him,*

that glory may dwell | in our land.

LORD, You were favorable | to Your land;*

You restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of Your | people;*

You covered | all their sin.

You withdrew | all Your wrath;*

You turned from Your hot | anger.

Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*

and put away Your indignation | toward us!

Will You be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will You prolong Your anger to all gener- | ations?

Will You not revive | us again,*

that Your people may re- | joice in You?

Show us Your steadfast love, | O LORD,*

and grant us Your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*

for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;

but let them not turn back to | folly.

**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.**

Surely His salvation is near to those who | fear Him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

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 healed of our brokenness, rejoicing in Him who alone is our 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.

C **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!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda. Copyright © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Readings

Reading: Ephesians 2:12–18

Ephesians 2:12–18

¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Reading: John 14:25–31

John 14:25–31

[Jesus said] ²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.”

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.

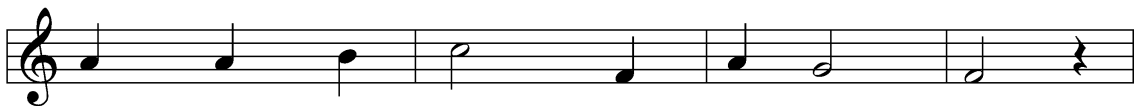
Hymn of the Day

355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

LSB 355



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;
2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;
3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;
4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;
As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring;
Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,
O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.
Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.
Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore
Forever and forevermore.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt.
Tune: Rheinfeilssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, 1666, Augsburg
Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018661
Tune: Public domain

Sermon

“Peace to All, Near and Far”

Ephesians 2:12-18

Catechism

- P** [Jesus Christ] suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.
- C** [He] has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

Sit

Offering

Special Music

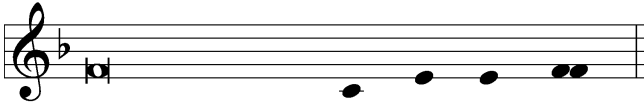
“The Magnificat”

POP Choir

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 mercy.

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.

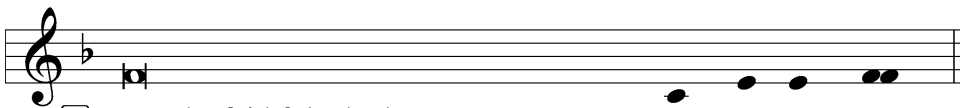
L For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

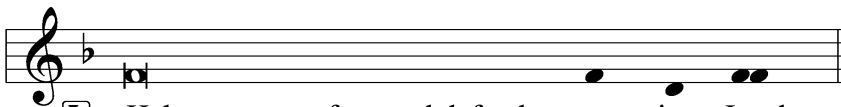
The prayers then continue:



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

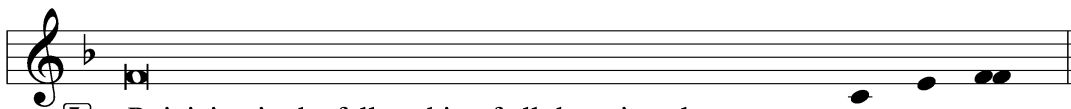


C Al - le - lu - ia.



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]

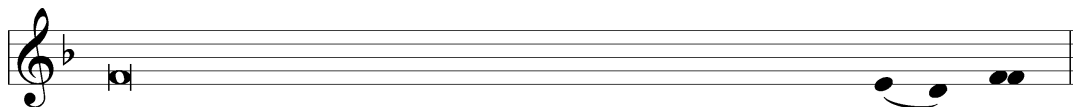


L Let us bless the Lord.



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.

887 Now the Light Has Gone Away

LSB 887



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.
Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, 1842, Kaiserswerth
Text and 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>