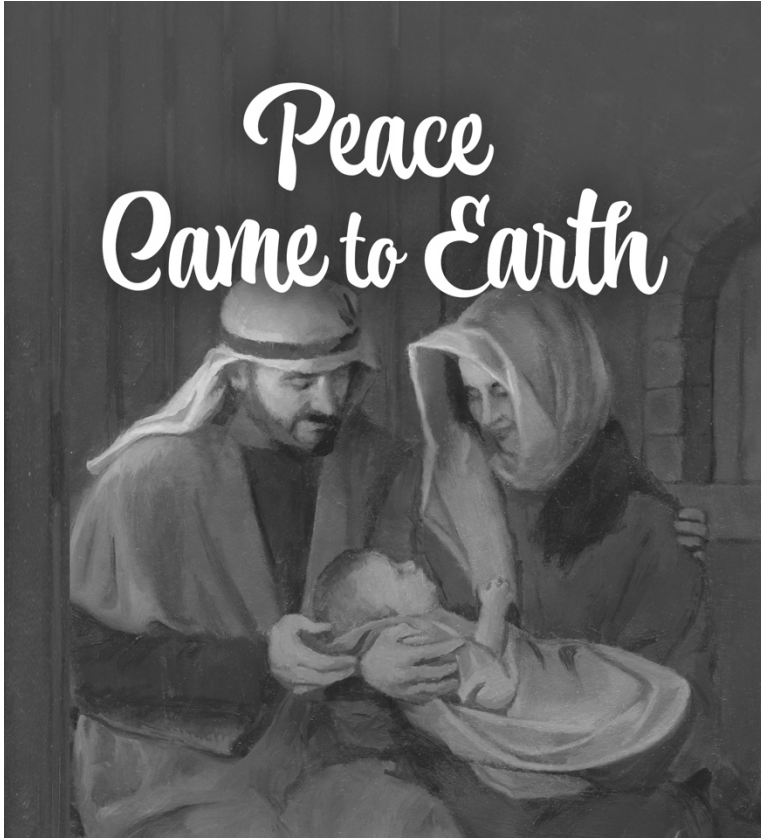


# Peace Came to Earth



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 20, 2023



**Theme:** During one of the busiest and most stressful times of the year, we pause this third week of Advent and consider the source of real and abiding peace. This harmony with both God and others comes to us neither through our exertions of control nor through our best-laid plans, but through the reign of our Mighty God come near to us in Jesus, His one and only Son. The fulfillment of our everlasting Father’s perfectly executed plan to save the world is revealed to us in the straw of the Bethlehem manger and then, some thirty-three years later, in the wood and nails of Calvary’s cross. Amid the disorder of our chaotic lives, our Prince of Peace gives us what the world can never give. Let us center our hearts and minds on our wonderful Counselor, who freely gives His everything so that our peace may rest on Him alone.

## Evening Prayer Service of Light

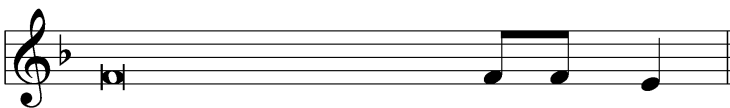
*Stand*

### Versicles

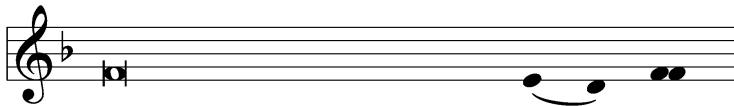
*John 8:12; John 1:5; Luke 24:29; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6*



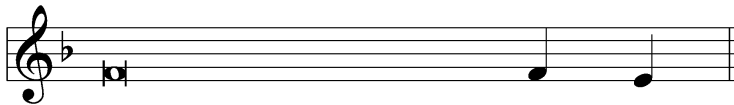
**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



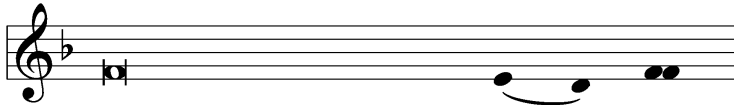
**C** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



**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:

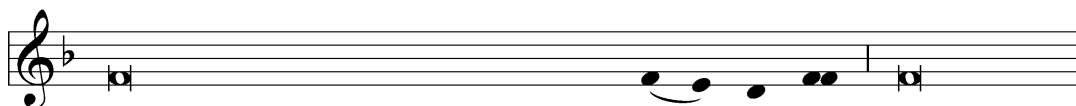


the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

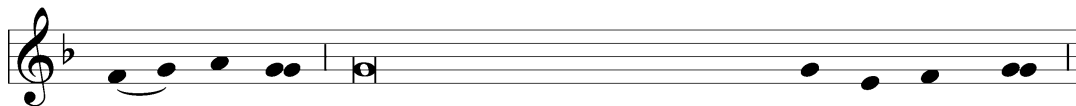
### Thanksgiving for Light



☐ Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



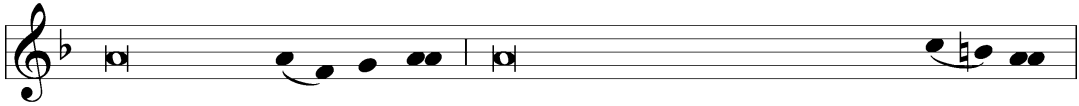
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of



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 126; antiphon: v. 5*

Those who | sow in tears\*

**shall reap with | shouts of joy!**

When the LORD restored the fortunes of | Zion,\*

**we were like | those who dream.**

Then our mouth was filled with | laughter,\*

**and our tongue with | shouts of joy;**

**then they said among the nations,**

“The LORD has done great | things for them.”\*

**The LORD has done great things for us; | we are glad.**

Restore our fortunes, | O LORD,\*

**like streams in the | Negeb!**

Those who | sow in tears\*

**shall reap with | shouts of joy!**

He who goes out weeping,

bearing the seed for | sowing,\*

**shall come home with shouts of joy,**

**bringing his | sheaves with him.**

**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.**

Those who | sow in tears\*

**shall reap with | shouts of joy!**

### **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: Isaiah 9:1-7

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## Reading: Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Reading: Matthew 10:34-39

<sup>34</sup>"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup>And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

**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

### 349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51  
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820  
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

“Our Peace Rests on Him Alone”

(Isaiah 9:6)

Catechism

- P** [Jesus Christ] 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.
- C** That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Canticle

*Stand*

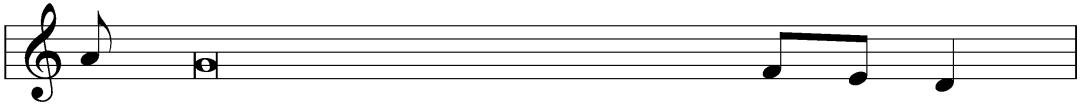
Magnificat

*Luke 1:46–55*

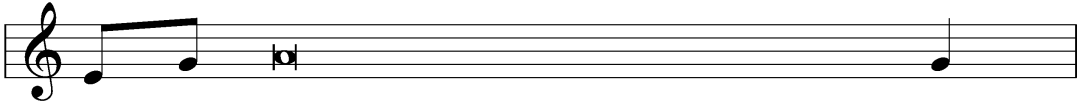
*Refrain*

**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 empty away.  
 5 and to the . . . . . Holy Spirit;



1 For behold, 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 beginning,



1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessed.  
 2 from generation to . . . . . generation. *Refrain*  
 3 and has exalted the lowly.  
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for ever.  
 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . Amen. *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 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.

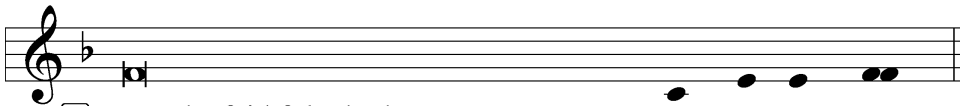
**L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

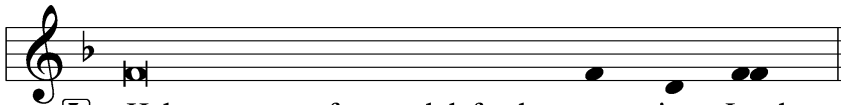
*The prayers then continue:*



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

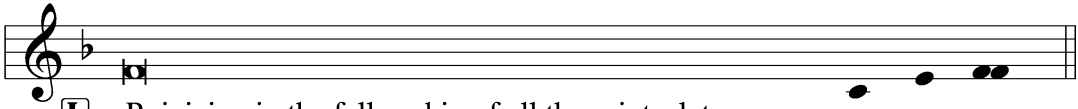


**C** Al - le - lu - ia.



**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]*

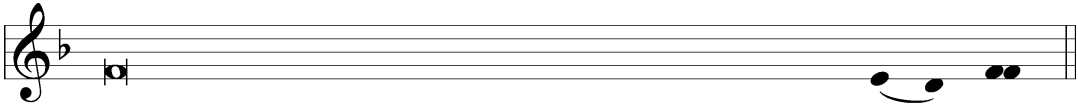


**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction



**P** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the  $\text{✝}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



**C** A - men.

## Closing Hymn

### “Peace Be Yours”

Peace be yours, May the Lord be with you,  
As we gather now and your whole life through,  
Blessing and mercy and wholeness, too. May God’s peace be yours.

Peace be yours, as you scatter from here.  
Anywhere you go, God is always near,  
Loving and calming your deepest fear. May God’s peace be yours.

Seek your strength where the Lord does abide,  
When the greatest evil is at your side.  
In Word and Sacrament, Christ resides. May God’s peace be yours.

Always know He has conquered the one,  
Who defies your life in God’s only Son.  
Yours is the struggle that Christ has won.  
May God’s peace be yours.

*Words and music by Blair A’Hearn. © 1997 Blair A’Hearn. CCLI # 1413786*

**Acknowledgments. Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.**