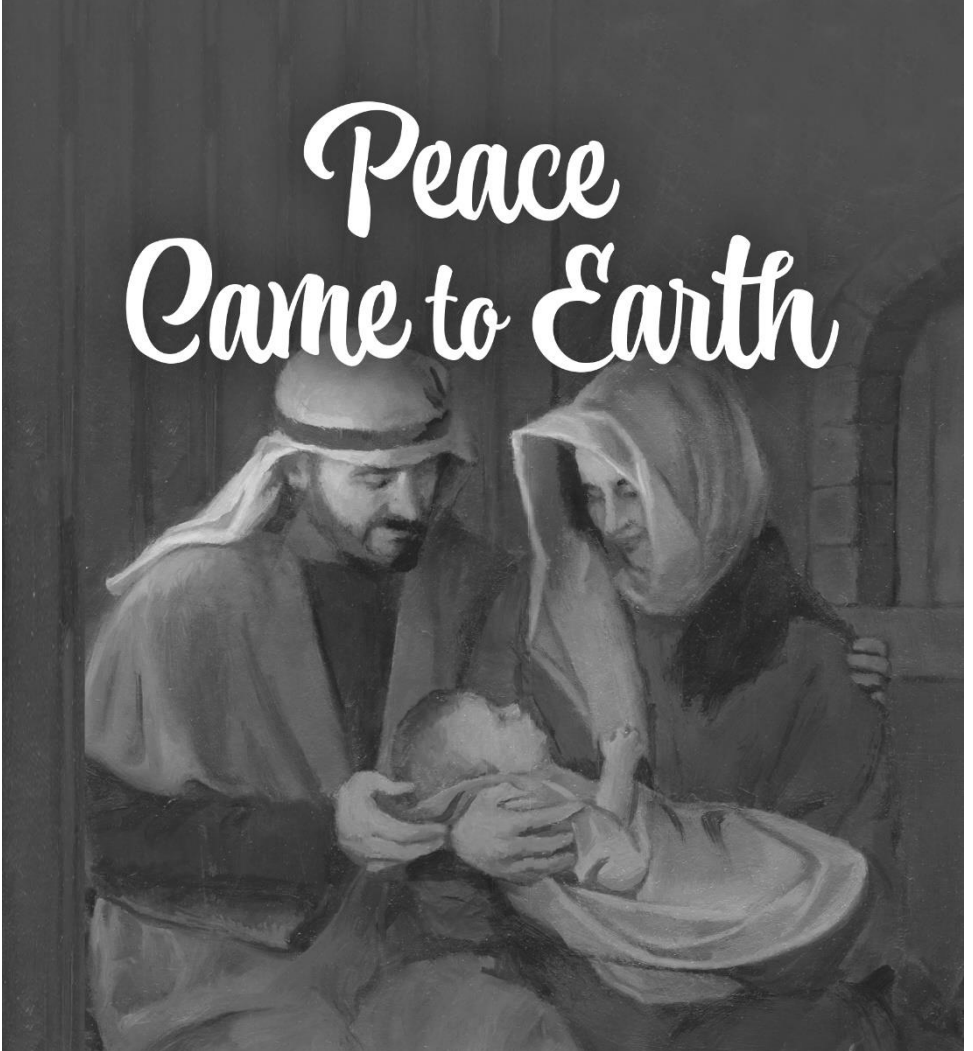


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

Peace Came to Earth



Advent Worship December 6, 2023

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

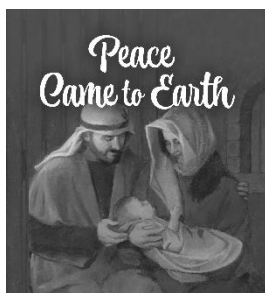
church@lcsavior.org

781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Midweek of Advent 1

Advent Worship December 6, 2023



Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near

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.

VESPERS

Prelude

L O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 80:1–7

Read responsively

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

²Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might
and come to save us!

³**Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷**Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**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.**

Office Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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Readings

First Reading

1 Timothy 6:6–9

L A reading from 1 Timothy, the sixth chapter.

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.**

Second Reading

Matthew 2:1–2, 9–10

L A reading from Matthew, the second chapter.

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.**

Responsory for Advent

LSB 230

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

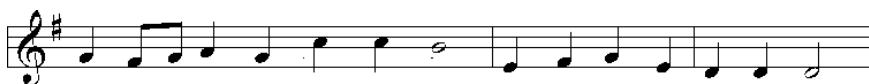
C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

- L** 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.**
- L** 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.**

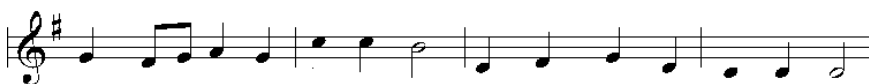
Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
 So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
 There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

Text and Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near



Canticle

Antiphon

LSB 231

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Magnificat

LSB 231

- L** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
- C** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
- L** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- C** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
- L** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
- C** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- L** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
- C** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
- L** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
- 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.

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 233

- L** Lord, have mercy;
- C** Christ, have mercy;
- L** Lord, have mercy.



Lord's Prayer

LSB 233

L Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we 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.**

Collects

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day

L 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.

C **Amen.**



Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect

L Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

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 Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234

L The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.



Closing Hymn

Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

LSB 920



1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
4 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak;
5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show



Christ to the world with joy we bring;
King - ship with Him His ser - vants gain;
This world of time to con - se - crate,
Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim
That in His Church all na - tions find



Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
With Christ the Ser - vant - Lord of all,
This world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's truth in love that we may be
Their hearth and home where Christ re - stores



Christ in our hearts, the world's true king,
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
Christ's world in Christ to re - cre - ate.
Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.
True peace, true love to all man - kind.

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Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Advent, Christmas & New Year's Worship

Please join us in worship in this new Church Year



Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm

Open Arms Christian Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Monday, December 25th at 9:00 am



New Year's Eve Worship

Sunday, December 31st at 7:00 pm