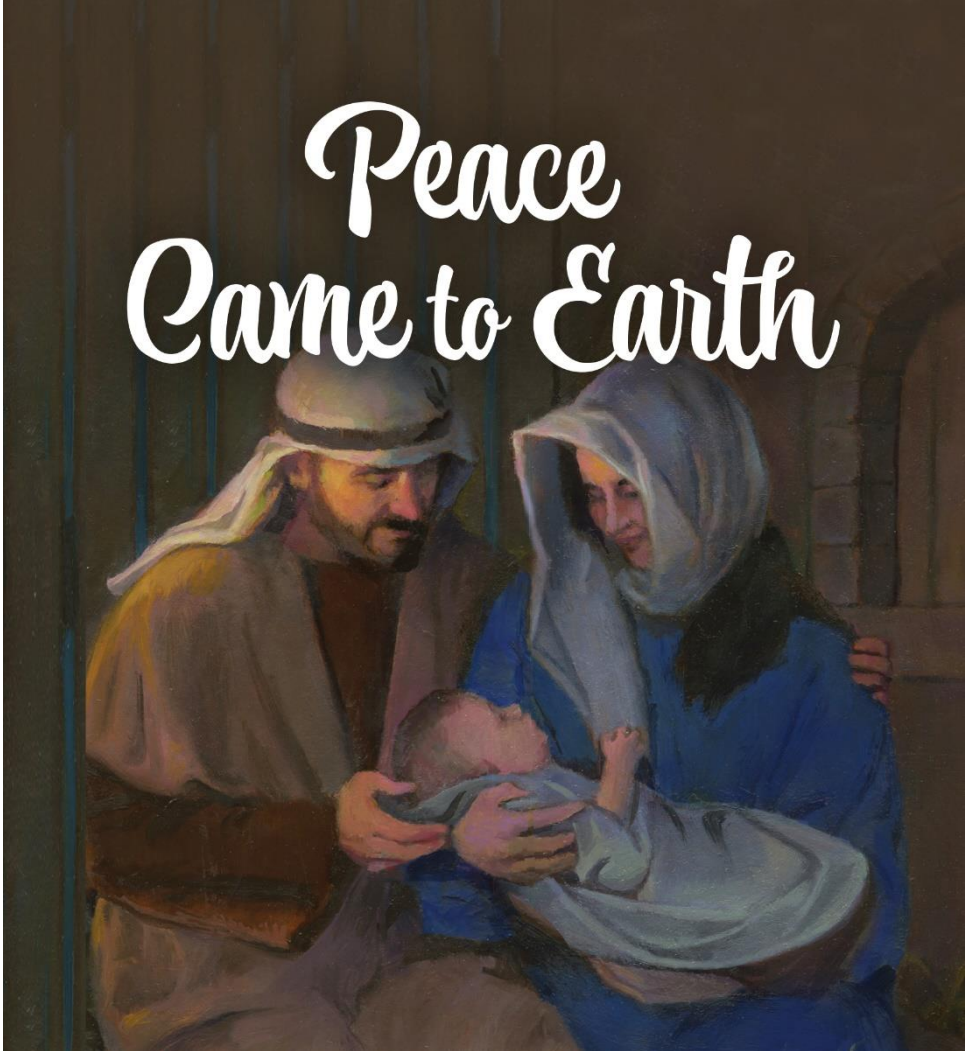


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

Peace
Came to Earth



Advent Worship December 13, 2023

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

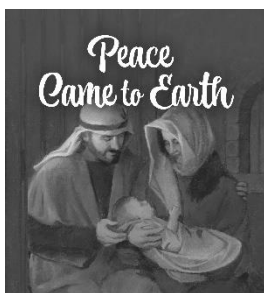
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Midweek of Advent 2

Advent Worship December 13, 2023



Peace to All, Near and Far

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.

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 85:1–9

Read responsively

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**

³You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

⁴**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!**

⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶**Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

⁸**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.**

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Office Hymn

Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

LSB 908

1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants the
△ 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the
Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -
heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or
tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
be Now and through - out c - ter - ni - ty.

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Readings

First Reading

Ephesians 2:12–18

L A reading from Ephesians, the second chapter.

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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

John 14:25–31

L A reading from John, the fourteenth chapter.

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.**



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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace;" thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God: "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble. As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys shall
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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Sermon

Peace to All, Near and Far



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 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.**



Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect

L O Lord, our dwelling place and our peace, You have compassion on our weakness. Put far from us all worry and fearfulness that, having confessed our sins and commending ourselves to Your gracious mercy, we may, when night shall come, commit ourselves, our work, and all we love into Your keeping, receiving from You the gift of quiet sleep; 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

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.

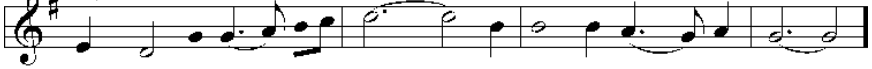


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



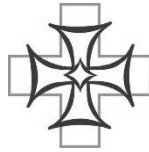
Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry;
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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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 13th at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 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