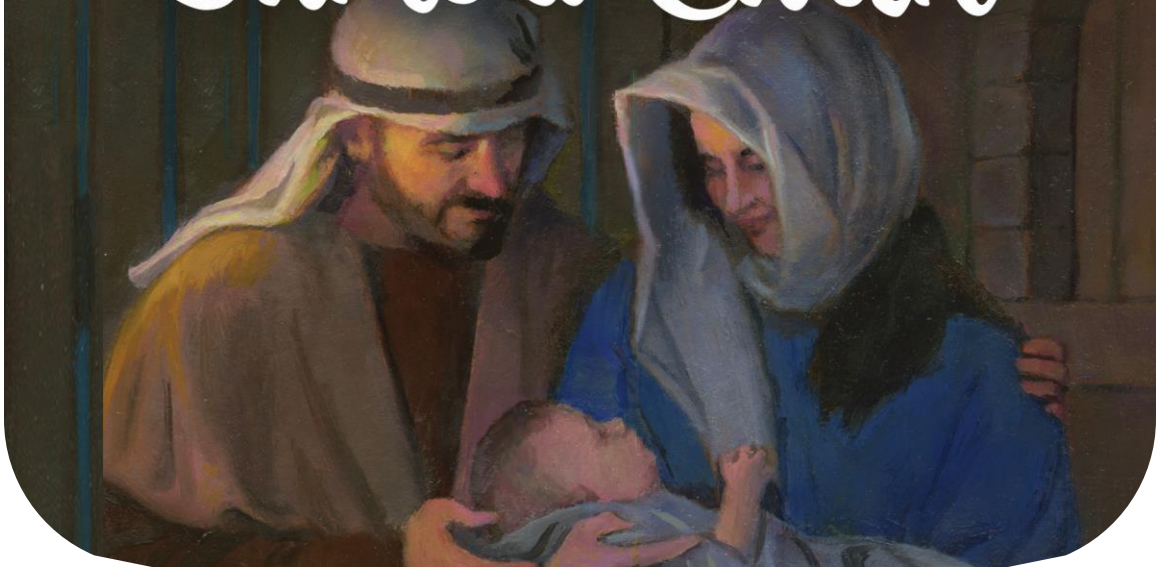


Peace Came to Earth



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.

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

December 6, 2023

Advent Midweek 1

Serving Today

Pastor Jonathan Christensen

Robert Hamrick, Organist

Craig Escude, Choir Director/Cantor

	<u>1:00 PM</u>	<u>7:00 PM</u>
Elders	Paul Mincer	Bob Morin
Lectors	Paul Mincer	Linda Licht
Ushers		
Greeter	Nona Schmook	Donna Watkins

Serving Next Advent Week December 13

	<u>1:00 PM</u>	<u>7:00 PM</u>
Lectors	Leah Ryel	Linda Licht
Ushers		
Greeter	Nona Schmook	Bill Paris

2606 Chimney Rock Road—Hendersonville, NC 28792

Church Phone 692-7027

Preschool Phone 698-5900

Church E-mail: mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com

Website: www.mtpisgahlutheran.com

Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM M-TH

9:00 AM—1:00 PM on Friday

The Order of Vespers

Prelude

Light of Light, O Sole Begotten

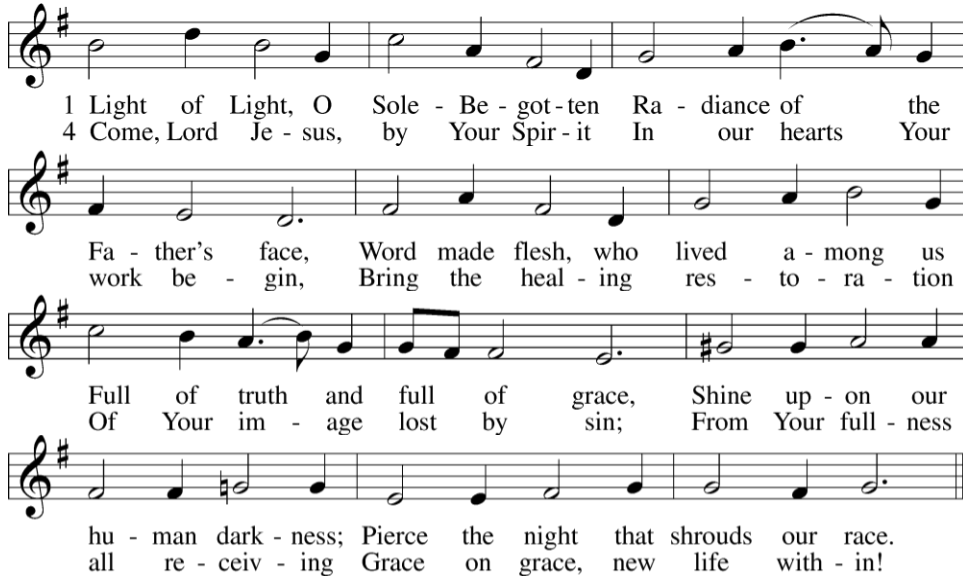
Andrew Moore

Stand

Lighting of the Candles

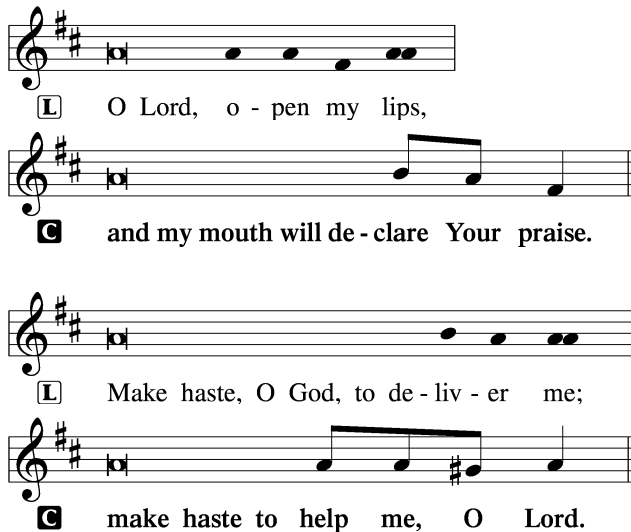
Lighting Hymn

914 Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten *sts. 1, 4*



1 Light of Light, O Sole - Be - got - ten Ra - diance of the
4 Come, Lord Je - sus, by Your Spir - it In our hearts Your
Fa - ther's face, Word made flesh, who lived a - mong us
work be - gin, Bring the heal - ing res - to - ra - tion
Full of truth and full of grace, Shine up - on our
Of Your im - age lost by sin; From Your full - ness
hu - man dark - ness; Pierce the night that shrouds our race.
all re - ceiv - ing Grace on grace, new life with - in!

Opening Sentences



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.
L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.



G Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon: v. 7 Tone I



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

Catechesis

- P** The Apostles' Creed confesses: I believe in Jesus Christ, [God's] only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary. What does this mean?
- G** 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.

Hymn

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Readings

First Reading

1 Timothy 6:6–9

P 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 145:18, 21 Tone A



The LORD is near to all who | call on him,*
to all who call on | him in truth.

My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

Second Reading

Matthew 2:1–2, 9–10

P 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Advent

230



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a right-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



G This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Right-teous-ness.

Hymn of the Day

397 As with Gladness Men of Old



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.

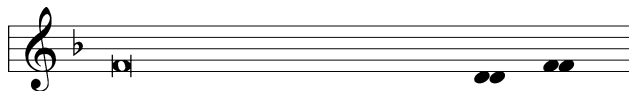
Sermon

Canticle

Stand

Antiphon

LSB 231



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

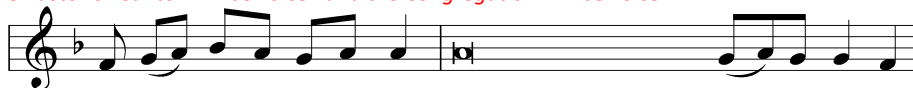


C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat

LSB 231

The Pastor or Cantor will be voice I and the Congregation will be voice II.



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



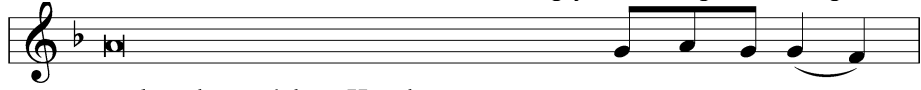
imagination of their hearts. II He has cast down the



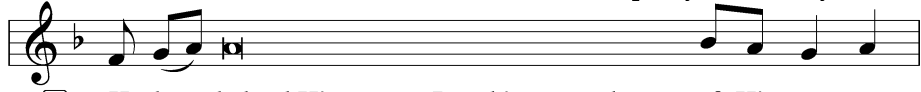
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,




and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A-men.

Sit
Offering **As with Gladness Men of Old** **Henry J. Markworth**
Prayer

Stand
Kyrie *LSB 233*



G Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

G 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 *LSB 233*



L O Lord, hear my prayer.
G And let my cry come to You.

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.

C Amen.

P 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.

P 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.

Benedicamus

LSB 234



L Let us bless the Lord.



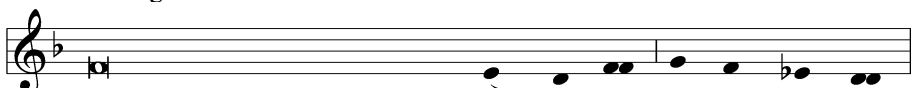
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234



P The grace of our Lord ☩ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn

920 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go



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.

Postlude

Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

Jonathan Kors

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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Ladies Guild

Again this year, the Ladies Guild is helping make Christmas merrier for the residents at Safelight, Henderson County's shelter for domestic violence victims and their children. If you are able to help, the items requested are hats, gloves, socks for adults and children, mini hand sanitizer, deodorant, body lotions and bath gels, nail polish, chapstick, hair brushes, hair ties and barrettes etc., journals and pens, pocket calendars, word puzzles and coloring books for adults, fuzzy slipper socks, candies and treats, puzzles for adults and children, and children's coloring books, crayons, stickers, books, etc. There will be a bin for donations in the narthex, with a deadline of December 22. Thank you for any help you can give.

Ladies Guild Luncheon

Take some time from the "Christmas Crunch" and join us for a leisurely lunch at A Day in the Country. We will be meeting there at 11 am on Monday, December 11. Please sign up on the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway so we can save you a seat! Questions? Talk to Kathy Kirchoefer (301-535-0129).

Church and Tree decorating

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 16th at 9:00 am. We will have cookies and hot coffee for the volunteers. Come and join us.

Parish Life

Please join us on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at noon for a Christmas luncheon hosted by the Parish Life committee. A signup sheet will be in the narthex. A free will offering will be collected to cover the cost of the food.

Outreach and Community Concerns

The mission of the month for December is Housing Assistance Corporation. The goal of Housing Assistance is to provide sustainable solutions and outreach programs for families in Henderson County. They are committed to providing safe and affordable housing for persons of limited income. Sometimes this looks like helping someone save for a down payment on a house and sometimes this means using funds and volunteers to make home repairs for an elderly or disabled person. With the ever-rising cost of housing in WNC, the services they provide are even more vital. Check out their website at www.housing-assistance.com for more information and please consider donating to this worthy organization.