

Peace Came to Earth



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.

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

December 13, 2023

Advent Midweek 2

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	Leah Ryel	Linda Licht
Ushers		
Greeter	Nona Schmook	Bill Paris

Serving Next Advent Week December 20

	<u>1:00 PM</u>	<u>7:00 PM</u>
Lectors	Paul Mincer	Wendy White
Ushers		
Greeter	Nona Schmook	

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

O Christ, Our True and Only Light

Steven Wente

Stand

Lighting of the Candles

Lighting Hymn

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light *sts. 1, 4*



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the

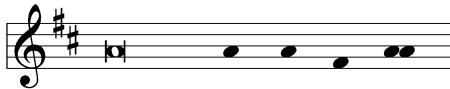


those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who

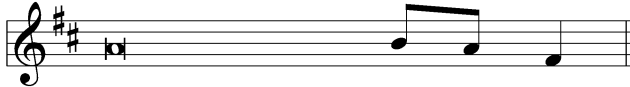


hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,

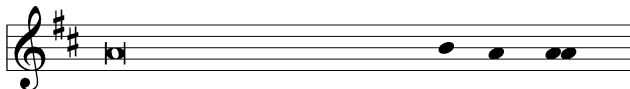
Opening Sentences



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 85:1–9; antiphon: v. 9 Tone K



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

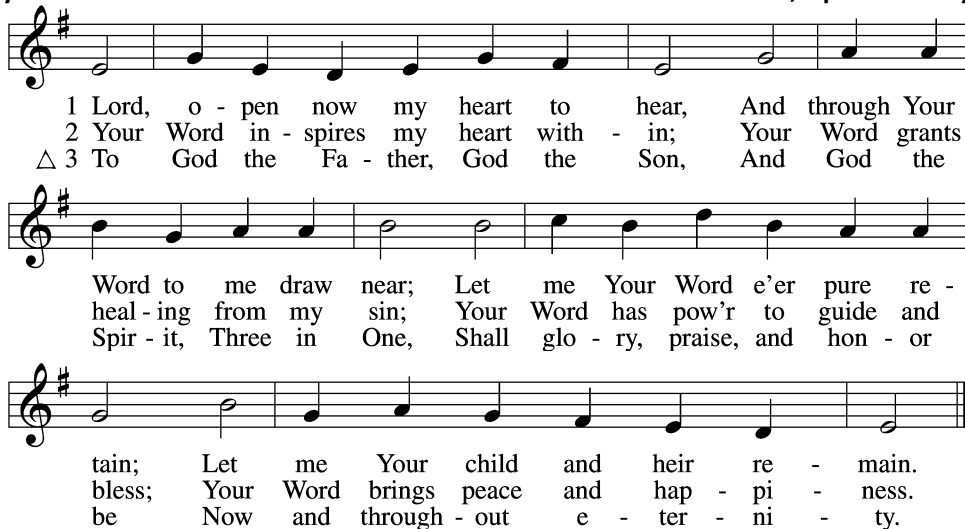
Catechesis

- P** The Apostles' Creed confesses: [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. What does this mean?
- 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

Hymn

908 Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear



1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants
△ 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 e - ter - ni - ty.

Readings

First Reading

Ephesians 2:11–22

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—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. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined

together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 25:3–4 Tone C



None who wait for you shall be | put to shame; *
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, | O LORD; *
teach me | your paths.**

Second Reading

John 14:25–31

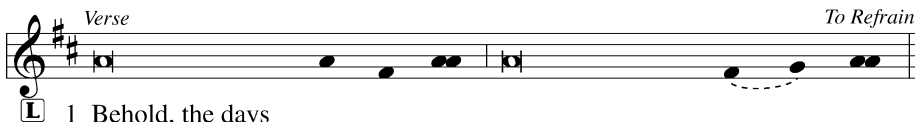
²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Advent

LSB 230



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a righteous Branch.
2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell securely.
3 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

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no

sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
 mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

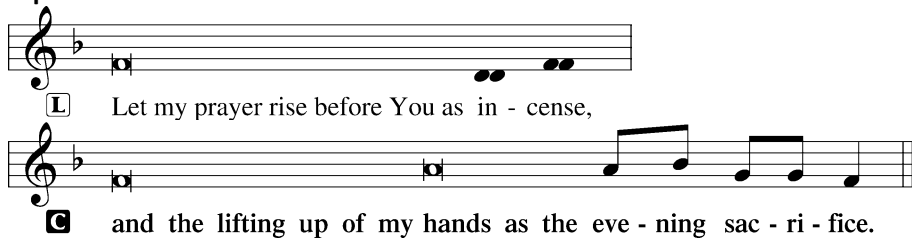
Sermon

Canticle

Stand

Antiphon

LSB 231



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

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

Magnificat Alternate

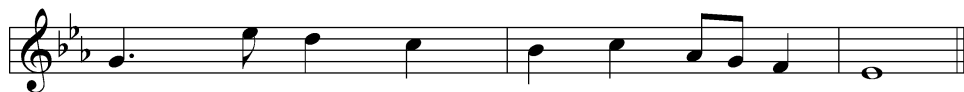
934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
 2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
 3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
 4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
 maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
 those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
 leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
 light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
 tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
 el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

Sit

Offering

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Robert Powell

Prayer

Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233



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

Lord's Prayer

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

LSB 233



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C 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 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.

P 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.

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 A - men.

Benedicamus

LSB 234

- P** Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
- C** Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."
- P** Go forth then, children of God, reconciled by Him who fulfills God's Word, rejoicing in His presence and knowing His perfect peace.



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

917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

Postlude

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Austin Lovelace

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.

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.