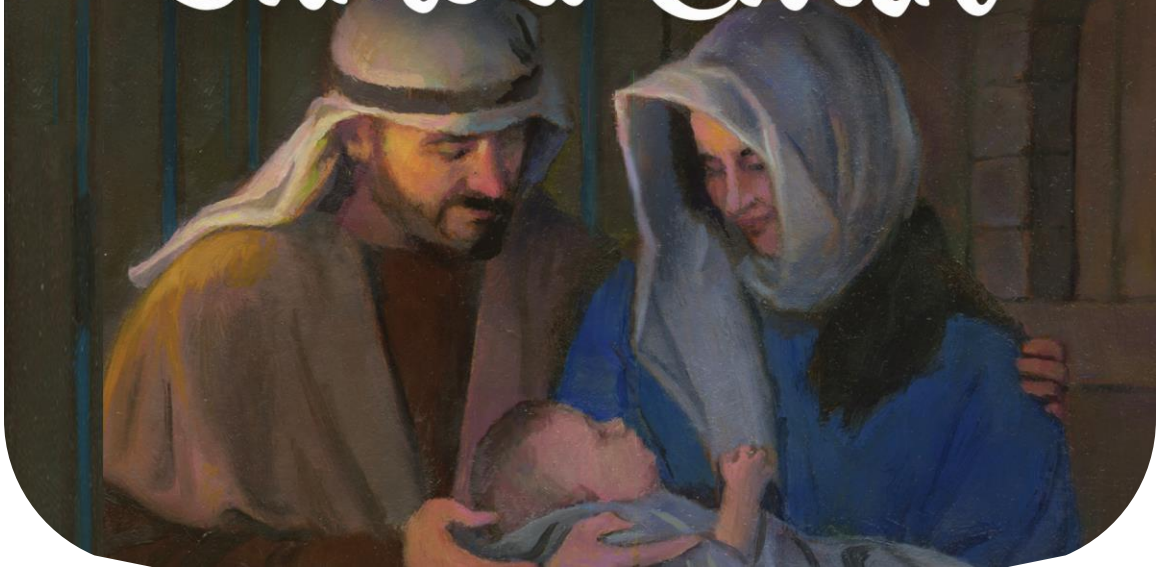


Peace Came to Earth



Our Peace Rests on Him Alone

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.

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

December 20, 2023

Advent Midweek 3

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	Wendy White
Ushers		
Greeter	Nona Schmook	

Serving Evening December 24

	<u>7:00 PM</u>
Lectors	David White
Ushers	
Greeter	Elaine Fabricius

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

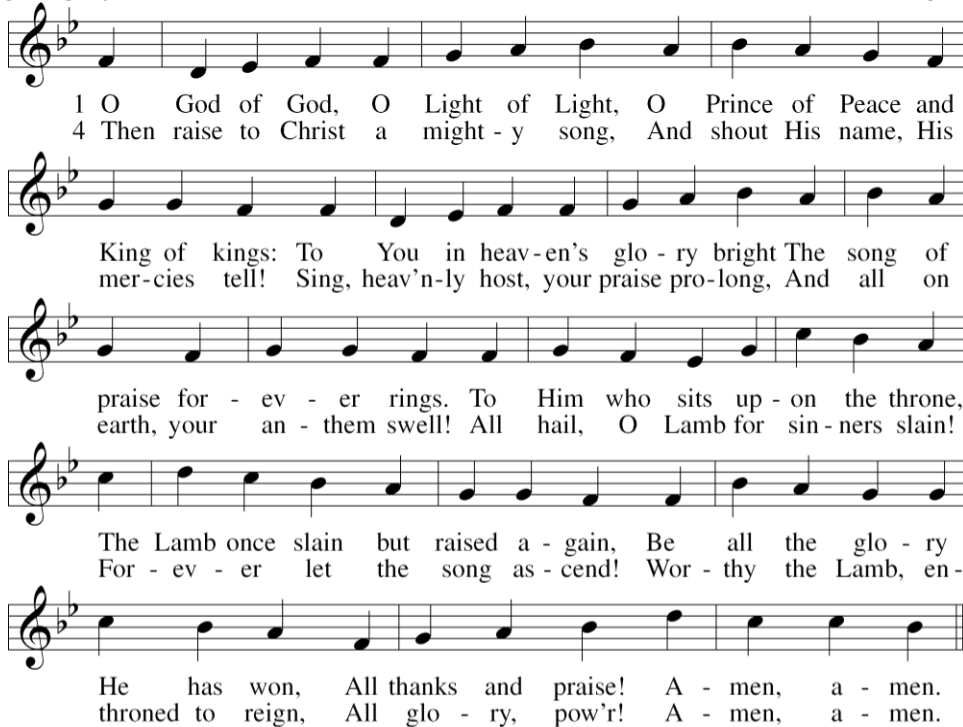
O God of God, O Light of Light

Matthew Machemer

Stand Lighting of the Candles

Lighting Hymn

810 O God of God, O Light of Light *sts. 1, 4*



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and
4 Then raise to Christ a might - y song, And shout His name, His
King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo - ry bright The song of
mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on
praise for - ev - er rings. To Him who sits up - on the throne,
earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!
The Lamb once slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry
For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -
He has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

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 126; antiphon: v. 5 Tone G



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!

Catechesis

- P** The Apostles' Creed confesses: [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. What does this mean?
- C** **[This He did] 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.**

Sit

Hymn

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly,
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1–7

P A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

¹ 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.

² 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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 12:9–21

P A reading from Romans, the twelfth chapter.

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

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To 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." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Matthew 10:34–39

P A reading from Matthew, the tenth chapter.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For 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. ³⁶And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever 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. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Advent

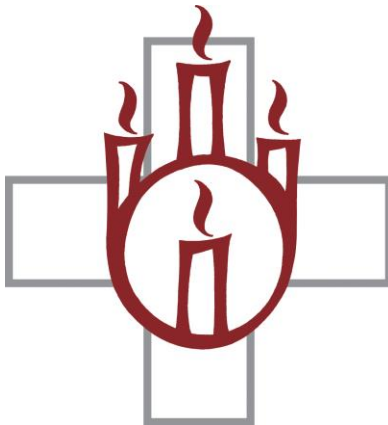
LSB 230



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a righ-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.



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



Hymn of the Day

412 The People That in Darkness Sat



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

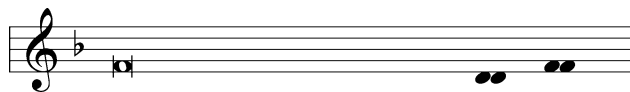
Sermon

Canticle

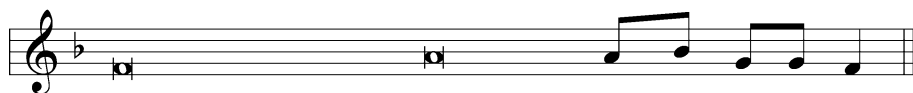
Stand

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 Alternate

935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!



Un-num-bered bless-ings, give my spir-it voice;
 Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
 Pow'rs and do-min-ions lay their glo-ry by.
 Firm is His prom-ise, and His mer-cy sure.



Ten-der to me the prom-ise of His Word;
 His mer-cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub-born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



In God my Sav-ior shall my heart re-joice.
 His ho-ly name, the Lord, the Might-y One.
 The hun-gry fed, the hum-ble lift-ed high.
 To chil-dren's chil-dren and for-ev-er-er more!

Sit

Offering

O Sing of Christ

Thomas Gieschen

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.

P Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Your most gracious favor, and further us with Your continual help that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in You we may glorify Your holy name and finally by Your mercy obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



C A - men.

Benedicamus

LSB 234

P His name shall be called

C Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P Go forth then, children of God, living securely in Him and in harmony with one another, rejoicing in His presence and knowing His perfect peace.

C Amen.



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

362 O Sing of Christ



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had barred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Postlude

Tell Out My Soul the Greatness of the Lord

Gerald Near

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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