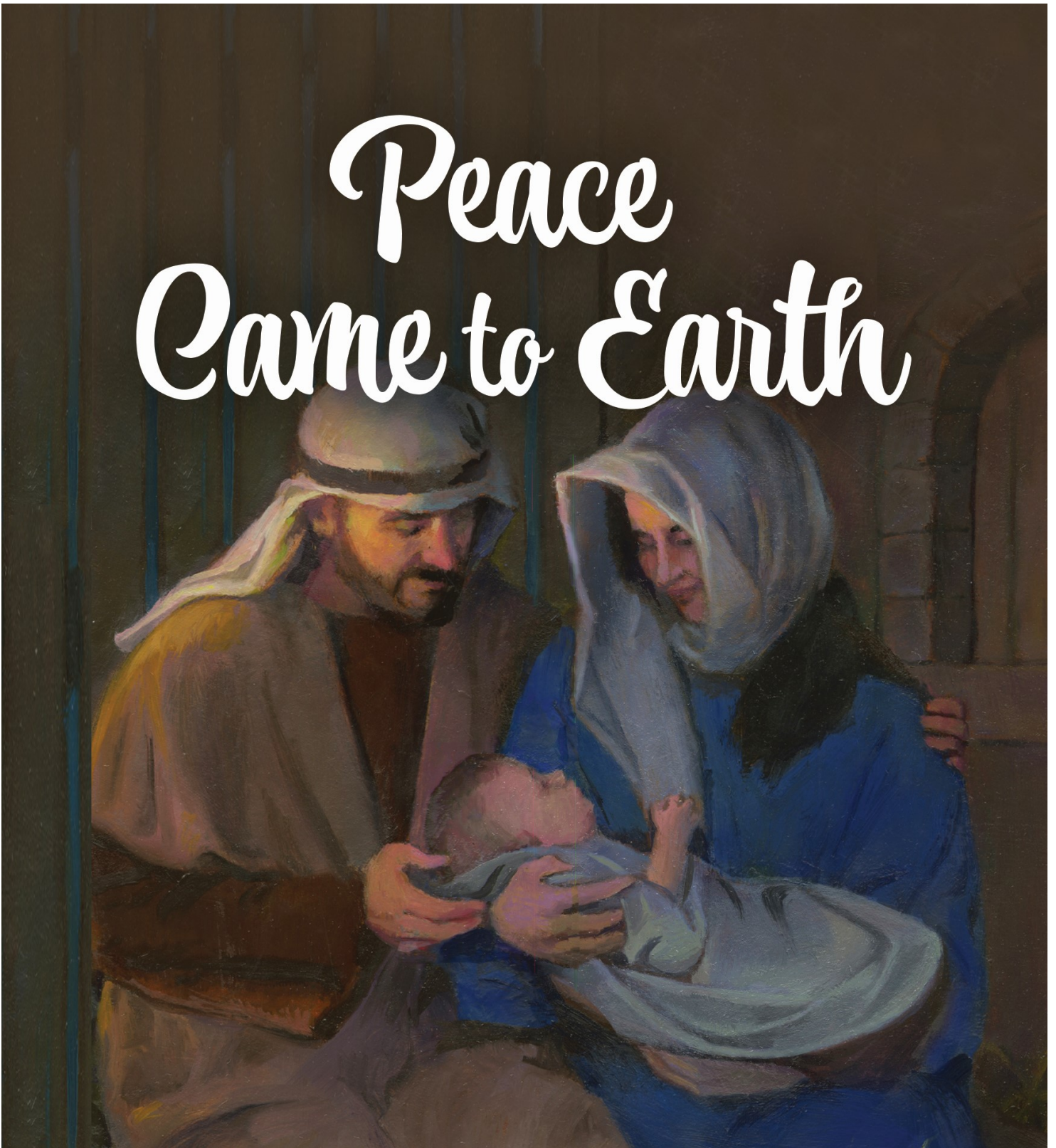


Peace Came to Earth



December 6, 2023

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1

“PEACE CAME TO EARTH”

December 6, 2023

ORDER OF VESPERS

LSB p. 229

“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.

PRELUDE

PRE-SERVICE SING-A-LONG

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt. Text and tune: French Text and tune: Public domain

“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: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

GREETING

P: Peace be with you,

C: And also with you.

THEME HYMN “Savior or the Nations, Come”

LSB 332 v. 1-4



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.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744 Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

stand

OPENING SENTENCES

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

ALL: 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.

PSALM – Psalm 80:1–7

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

C: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

P: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

C: stir up Your might and come to save us!

P: Restore us, O God;

C: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: O LORD God of hosts,

C: how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

P: You have fed them with the bread of tears

C: and given them tears to drink in full measure.

P: You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

C: and our enemies laugh among themselves.

ALL: 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.

P: Restore us, O God of hosts;

C: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

sit

FIRST READING

1 Timothy 6:6-9

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.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10

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.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

SERIES HYMN "Peace Came to Earth" *Insert*

SERMON "Look, There's the Star!" Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10

We often think getting _____ is what's important at Christmas.

Left to ourselves, our pursuit of _____ would never end.

But the Good News is that God _____ us, _____ our

endless chase,

and gives us a new understanding of His gift of _____ .

Our _____ is found in the One who has already _____ and

made us (YOU!) _____ .

CANTICLE “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

LSB 934



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.

Text: Luke 1:46–55; adapt. Stephanie K. Frey, 1952 Tune: Geistliche Lieder auuffs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744 Tune: Public domain

sit

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

stand

KYRIE
ALL: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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

P: O Lord, hear my prayer.

C: And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION

COLLECT

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.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

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: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P: When the Magi saw the star,

C: they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

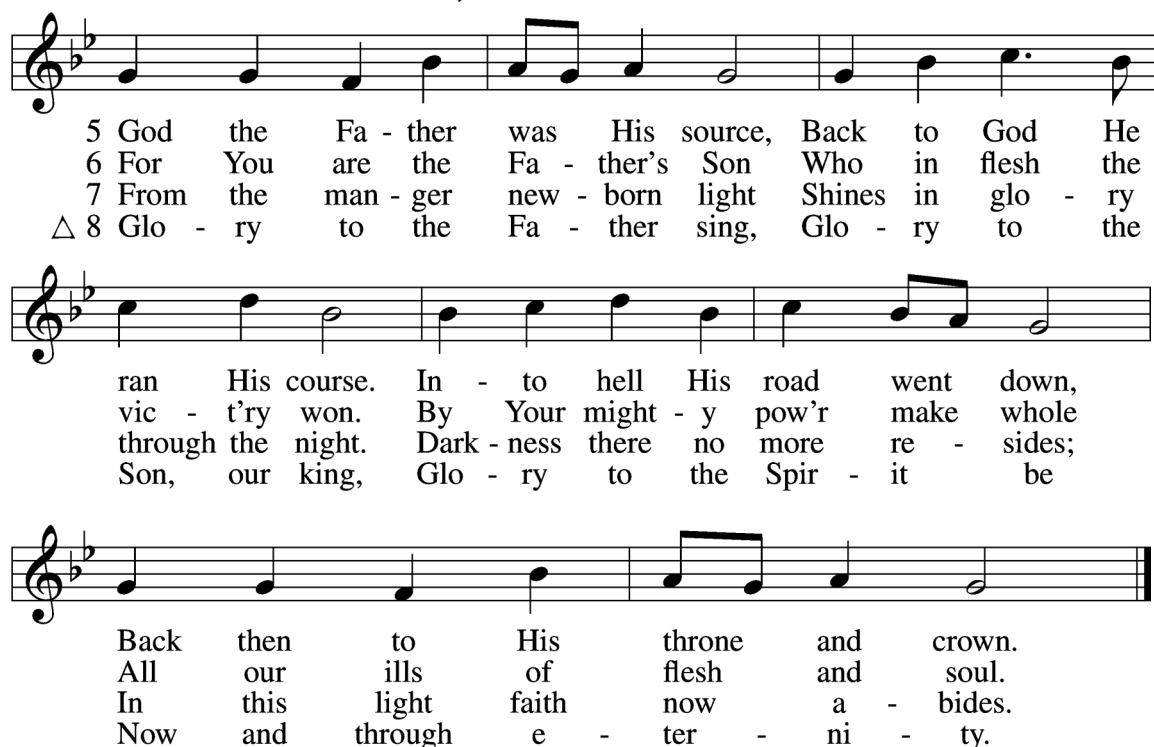
C: Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN “Savior of the Nations, Come”

LSB 332 v. 5-8



5 God the Fa - ther was His source, Back to God He
6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the
7 From the man - ger new - born light Shines in glo - ry
△ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the

ran His course. In - to hell His road went down,
vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole
through the night. Dark - ness there no more re - sides;
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be

Back then to His throne and crown.
All our ills of flesh and soul.
In this light faith now a - bides.
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobier, 1973 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (sts. 5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744 Tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

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MIDWEEK ADVENT – CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR’S EVE SCHEDULE 2023

Our Regular Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 5:00 P.M. & Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

Midweek Advent / Christmas Day Services - Overall Theme: “Peace Came to Earth”

Advent meal at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13 (7:00 P.M.) “Peace to All, Near and Far”

Wednesday, December 20 (7:00 P.M.) “Our Peace Rests on Him Alone”

Christmas Eve

Children’s Service

Sunday, December 24 (9:00 A.M.) “Peace Came to Earth”

Candlelight: A Service of Song and Lessons

Sunday, December 24 (7:00 P.M.) “His Name-Immanuel”

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25 (9:00 A.M.) “The Diamond Found in the Manger”

New Year’s Eve

Saturday, December 30 (5:00 P.M.) & Sunday, December 31 (9:00 A.M.)
“A Time for Everything”

Welcome to Peace in the name of the Risen Savior!

We request that visitors register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. We ask that you share your name and address so that we can recognize your visit with us. All members are requested to register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. Members, please indicate all family members present and those who took communion, so that the Pastor and Elders can be spiritually accountable for you and your family.

Are your cell phones turned off? Cell phones are indeed a great convenience in life these days. However, please, out of courtesy, silence cell phones during the worship service. Thank you!

Hearing assist devices and large print bulletins are available for those who may need them. Please see an Usher or the Elder who will be happy to assist you.

A Mother's Room is available for parents of young children if the need arises. The Mother's Room in the west hallway. The worship service is able to be heard in the Mother's Room.

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WORSHIP SERVICES:

Holy Communion Celebrated at all Services

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00a.m.

Sunday Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (Sept. –May) 10:30 a.m.

Website: www.peaceneenah.com

YouTube: Peace Neenah

