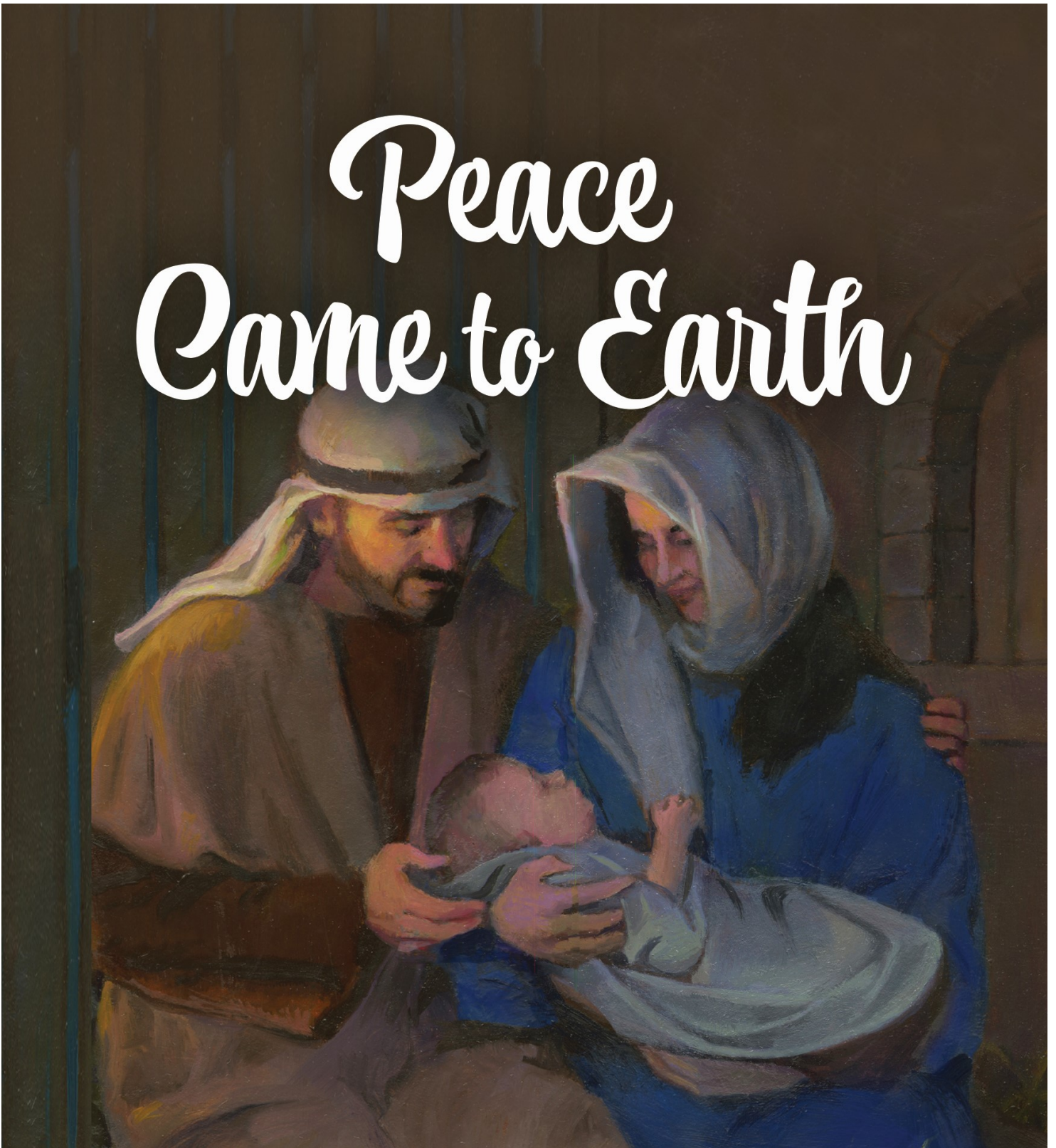


Peace Came to Earth



December 13, 2023

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2

OVERALL THEME: PEACE CAME TO EARTH

“PEACE TO ALL, NEAR AND FAR”

VESPERS

LSB p. 229

AS WE GATHER

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.

PRELUDE

PRE-SERVICE SING-A-LONG

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

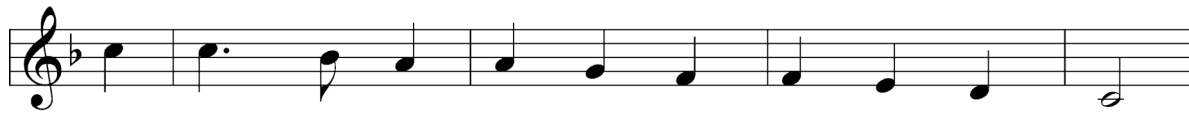


Hark! The her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47 Text and tune: Public domain

"Away in the Manger"

LSB 364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905
Text and tune: Public domain

GREETING

P: Peace be with you,
C: **And also with you.**

OPENING 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
△ 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.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Mark A. Jeske, 1952 Tune: Geistliche Lieder
auffs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744 Text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public domain

stand

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 51:15, 70:1*

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.

PSALMODY *Psalm 85:1–9; antiphon: v. 9*

P: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C: that glory may dwell in our land.

P: LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

C: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

P: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

C: You covered all their sin.

P: You withdrew all Your wrath;
C: You turned from Your hot anger.

P: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
C: and put away Your indignation toward us!

P: Will You be angry with us forever?
C: Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

P: Will You not revive us again,
C: that Your people may rejoice in You?

P: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
C: and grant us Your salvation.

P: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
C: for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

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

sit

FIRST READING

Ephesians 2:12–18

P: 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.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.
C: Thanks be to God.

stand

SECOND READING

John 14:25–31

P: 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.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

LSB p. 230

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.

sit

SERIES HYMN “Peace Came to Earth” (*See insert*)

SERMON “Peace to All, Near and Far” Ephesians 2:12-18

stand

ANTIPHON

LSB p. 231

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT “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 aufs 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

OFFERING

stand

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

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

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 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.

PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION

COLLECT

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.

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

LSB p. 234

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

LSB 922



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My
I the Lord will smile up-on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.
heard My dear Son's sto-ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.
Lord will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and Broth-er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Tune: Welsh, 18th cent. Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744 Tune: Public domain

THE SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDES

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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 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.

**Peace Lutheran Church
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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

