



Peace Came to Earth

# Peace Came to Earth

*"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1*

## A Children's Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2023

9:00AM

### THE PRELUDE

### WELCOME: Pastor

### OPENING HYMN: Congregation: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379:1-2



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

#### *Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786 Text and tune: Public domain

## THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES:

Isaiah 9:6

P: For to us a child is born,

**C: to us a son is given;**

P: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

**C.: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,**

P: Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

**C: Prince of Peace.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world; the light no darkness can overcome. Stay with us Lord this day. Let your light shine in Your church. Let us gather under the wings of Your mercy.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

**C: We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins, those known to us that burden our hearts, and even those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Precious Son, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Our God has indeed forgiven all your sins. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to redeem us. The Baby King, born in Bethlehem is the Savior of all people. You are forgiven and free from the guilt of your sin by God's gifts of Love, Grace and Peace through His Son Jesus. Go and serve Him with joy.

We Pray: Gracious Lord God, Father of the universe, ruler of our hearts, and Savior of all people, come to us today with the beautiful and precious sounds of that first Christmas. Fill our hearts with the same joy felt by Mary and Joseph, with the same hope that was enjoyed by the shepherds, and with the same praise that was uttered by the angel hosts. May the sounds of Christmas be heard not only today, but also throughout our lives, until we behold the long-awaited concert that only heavenly voices can present.

We ask this in the name of the Baby in Bethlehem, the Sacrificial Lamb, and the risen King, our ascended Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

## **THE CHRISTMAS CREED (by all)**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Precious Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men, who lived to suffer, die and rise again, to free us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and by His continuous work in my heart, I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ; the treasures of My love, and live under Him as my king, both now and forevermore. Amen.**

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE/MEDITATION**

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: Congregation:**    *“Peace Came to Earth”*    vs 1&4

1. Peace came to earth at last that chosen night  
When angels clove the sky with song and light  
And God embodied love and sheathed His might—  
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!  
Who could but sing: Immanuel!
  
4. How else could I have known You, O my God!  
How else could I have loved You, O my God!  
How else could I embrace You, O my God!  
Who could but pray: Immanuel!  
Who could but praise Immanuel!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda. Copyright © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

## **PRAYERS**

## HYMN – CONGREGATION: “O Come Little Children”

Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all.  
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small.  
God’s Son for a gift has been sent you this night.  
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.

He’s born in a stable for you and for me.  
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see  
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild  
And purer than angels, the Heavenly child.

See Mary and Joseph with love-beaming eyes  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies.  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love  
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.

Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,  
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they  
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast  
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

### **THE MESSAGE PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

#### **THE PROMISE OF PEACE**

HYMN: Congregation: “Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349: v 1&2

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820 Text and tune: Public domain

**HYMN: Congregation: “Hark the Glad Sound”**

LSB 349: v 3&amp;4

3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820 Text and tune: Public domain

**PEACE IS PROCLAIMED****HYMN: Congregation: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

LSB 357:1&amp;4

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

## THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Children's Song: "Angels We Have Heard on High" v. 1 (Angels)

Children's Song: "Angels We Have Heard on High" v.2 (Shepherds)

### **Creed** Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

*And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He 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.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.*

### **HYMN: Congregation:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LSB 361 v. 1&4



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

## **PEACE FOR ALL PEOPLE**

### **HYMN: Congregation: “We Three Kings”**

v.1

1. We three kings of orient are; bearing gifts, we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O, star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding; guide us to Thy perfect light.

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### **HYMN: Congregation: “We Three Kings”**

v.5

Glorious now behold Him arise King and God and sacrifice  
Alleluia alleluia Sounds through the earth and skies

Refrain:

O, star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding; guide us to Thy perfect light.

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Children’s song: “*King of Kings*”

AGPS 151

Children’s song: “*Go Tell It On the Mountain*”

### **RESPONSIVE READING**

**P** Lord, let Your servants go in peace;

**C** **Your word has been fulfilled.**

**P** Our eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight  
of every people;

**C** **A light to reveal You and Your gift of peace to the nations and the  
glory of Your people Israel. 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** Let us pray.

**C** **Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
to take away our sins and to bring peace to our fallen world. Help  
us to share Your message of love and forgiveness with others so  
that they may also find peace in You. In Jesus’ name we pray.  
Amen.**



## 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.

## BENEDICTION

**P** Joy to the world, the Son of God, our promised Savior, has come! May the peace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day.

**C** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RECESSIONAL HYMN: Congregation *"Joy to the World"*

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Baby Jesus:** Isaiah Nemecek

**Joseph & Mary:** Nick Nemecek & Hanna Piepenbrink

**Program Director:** Betsy Ehlert

**Music Directors:** Emily Ehlert & Jody Gawron

**Organist/Pianist:** Janelle Bonson

**Christmas Service Bulletin Cover:** Sunday School Children

**Narrators:** Noah VandenBloomer, Haylee Weissshahn, Jamarion Lunde,  
Megan Sommerfeldt, Matthew Glasheen

**Sunday School Teachers:** Rebecca Doyle, Ashley Fitch, Ali Pelger,  
Ranee Bahn, Jared Bahn, Jody Gawron, Emily Ehlert, &  
Luke Pelger

**Sunday School Superintendents:** Caitlin VandenBloomer & Betsy Ehlert

**THANK YOU. . .**

**To all the Sunday School Staff, Parents and musicians  
who made our Children's Christmas Service possible.**

**Sunday School will resume on January 7, 2024**

*Merry Christmas to everyone from  
the Sunday School Staff at  
Peace Lutheran Church*



# CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR’S EVE SCHEDULE 2023

## Our Regular Weekly Worship Schedule

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

### Christmas Day Services - Overall Theme: “Peace Came to Earth”

#### Christmas Eve

##### **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  
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

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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](http://www.peaceneenah.com)

YouTube: Peace Neenah

