

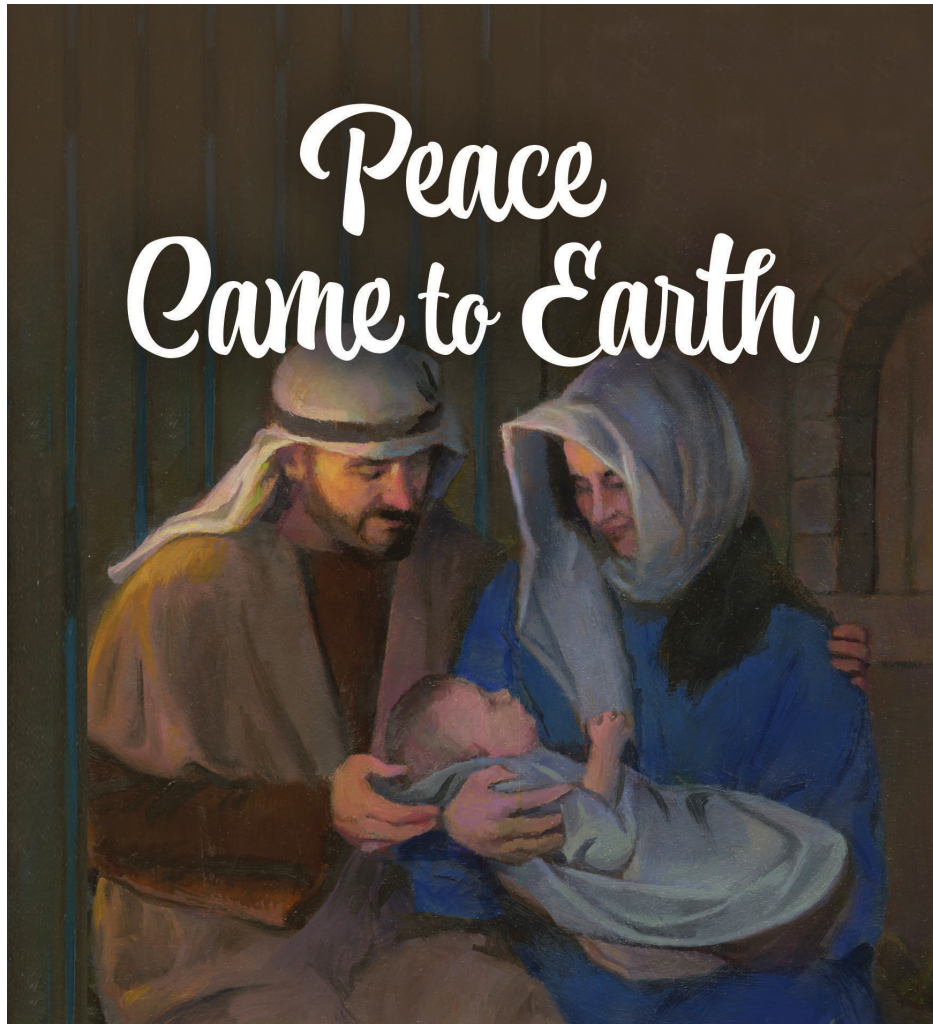


STJNLNB

St. John's Lutheran Church
New Berlin, IL

A member of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

† Sunday School Program † December 24, 2023 †



Peace
Came to Earth

In the Lord's service today:
The Sunday School children
Rev. Jacob Moore
Cheryl Long, organist

308 E. Gibson St. † New Berlin, IL
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:00 AM † Divine Worship 10:00 AM

Peace Came to Earth

Tonight, we remember Mary and Joseph as they come to Bethlehem. We sing with the angels as they fill the sky. We run with the shepherds as they arrive on the scene. We behold the glory of God in the face of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is here we find our peace. Wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, our Prince of Peace is very much the diamond that the everlasting Father gives to us. As we gather to open His Word and sing His praises, let us rejoice in Jesus, the greatest blessing the world will ever know...

Preparation

Processional

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



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,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee___ be___ glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God___ In___ the___ high - est:
Word 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 and tune: Public domain

O Come,
+ ALL YE +
faithful

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.**
C **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.

Christmas Meditation

Pastor Jacob Moore

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

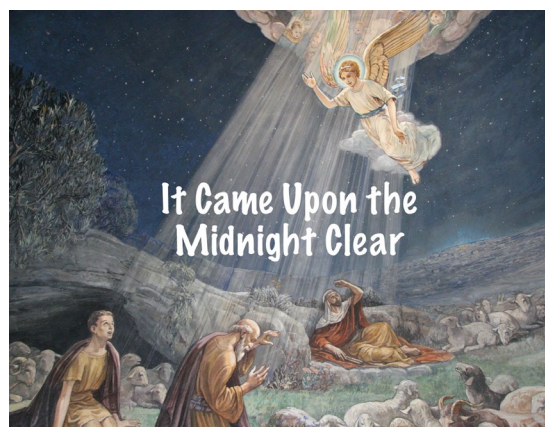
LSB 366, sts. 1, 3, 4

1 It came up-on the mid-*n*ight clear, That glo-ri-ous song of old,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,
From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.
“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an-cient prom-ise bring,
The world in sol-*e*mn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.

Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Text and tune: Public domain



The Message Presented by the Children The Promise of Peace

- Zoey Meats:** In the beginning, God created a perfect world. There was no sickness, no pain, and no death. The people God had made lived at peace with the animals, with each other, and with God.
- Liam Pearson:** Then one day, the people were tempted to doubt God’s Word and to question the gifts He had already given them. They disobeyed God and took what God had commanded them not to take, bringing sin into the world.
- Michael Pearson:** When sin entered the perfect world God had made, perfect peace was lost. The man and woman hid from God and blamed each other and God for what they had done. Peace was replaced by shame and hurt and sickness and death.
- Danielle Olsson:** But God did not give up on the people He had made! He promised to send a Savior to bring back the peace that had been lost.
- Brian Davenport:** We read about God’s first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15, when He spoke judgment on the serpent who had deceived Adam and Eve: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”
- Matthew Bandelow:** The Savior would take the punishment that man deserved. He would defeat sin, death, and Satan and restore the relationship between God and man.
- Eli Cook:** Hundreds of years passed while God’s people waited, sometimes wondering if God had forgotten the promise He had made in the Garden of Eden. But God had not forgotten. He sent prophets such as Isaiah to remind the people that He would one day fulfill His promise to restore peace. Isaiah prophesied about the promised Savior, saying, “For 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” (Isaiah 9:6).

God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392, sts. 1, 3



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite

Tune: German

Text and tune: Public domain

Peace is Proclaimed

Michael Bandelow: Malachi, the last prophet in the Old Testament, foretold that God would send a messenger to prepare the way of the promised Savior. Four hundred years later, when John the Baptist was born, his father, Zechariah, proclaimed these words about John, “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways (Luke 1:76–79).

Brian Davenport: The promised Prince of Peace was about to arrive! God sent an angel to Mary with the proclamation that she would be the mother of the Savior.

Alexis Olsson: The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:30–33).

Mackinze Olsson: God also sent an angel to proclaim this good news to Joseph.

Michael Bandelow: Matthew 1:20–23 tells us, “An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357, sts. 1, 4



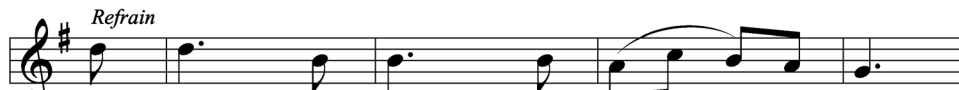
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



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

- Brian Davenport:** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.
- Mackinze Olsson:** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. And while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
- Faith Johnson:** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:1–7).
- Evelyn Johnson:** “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- Jackson Lauderback:** And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were afraid.
- Lucas Olsson:** And the angel said unto them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be for all people.
- Rynn Duewer:** For unto you is born this day in the city of David
- Kollins Duewer:** a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- Kylee Pearson:** And this will be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
- All Children:** ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will toward men!’” (Luke 2:8–14).

Action Rhyme

- To us a Child is born *(Rock arms, as if holding a baby.)*
To us a Son is given. *(Hold both arms out, as if giving something.)*
- This Christmas we receive *(Place hands on heart.)*
The blessed gift of heaven. *(Point up.)*

- Eli Cook:** The baby born in Bethlehem was the promised Prince of Peace, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Savior! God the Father sent His only Son into this world to live a perfect life in our place, die on the cross for our sins, and rise again to life, giving us the sure hope of eternal life. All who believe in Him shall have peace with God once more. Romans 5:1 declares, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The children will sing the first verse. Please join in on the last two!

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 night.
 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

Peace for All People

Zoey Meats:

Jesus Christ came for all people. God placed a star in the heavens to guide the Wise Men from the East to the Savior of the world. We read from Matthew chapter 2: “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,

Brian Davenport:

Saying, ‘Where is He that has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him. “When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ should be born (Matthew 2:1-2).

Michael Pearson:

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Matthew Bandelow:

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. (Matthew 2:7-9).

Danielle Olsson:

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Liam Pearson:

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him:and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:10-12).



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98

Tune: English, 16th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Alexis Olsson:

The shepherds couldn't keep the good news of the Savior to themselves. They returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard. The Wise Men also likely shared the story of the star that led them to the Savior-King.

Michael Bandelow:

How beautiful it is when we share the Good News of the Savior, who brings peace to the world. Isaiah 52:7 tells us, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"



**We also kneel before
 the Babe in humble stall,
 the Lord our Righteousness
 Who came to save us all**





5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad-dling
 14 My heart for ver - y joy must leap; My lips no
 15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the
 more can si - lence keep. I, too, must sing with
 us His Son has giv'n! While an - gels sing with
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
 joy - ful tongue That sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
 pi - ous mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann
 Text and tune: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

P Please rise as we confess our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **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.**

Luther's Evening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

P We speak together Luther's Evening Prayer.

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that
 You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me
 all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For
 into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let
 Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
 Amen.**

- P** Let us pray:
Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take away our sins and 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.
- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises we are bold to pray:
- 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.**

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 to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.**

Benediction

- P** Joy to the world, the Son of God, our Savior, has come! The peace of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day.
C **Amen.**

Candle Lighting

Pastor lights his candle from the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World. Pastor then gives the light to the Ushers. Ushers light the candle of the first worshipper in each pew, who passes it on. Lighted candles are never tilted but held upright when giving light to another. We will begin singing Silent Night Holy Night after all the candles have been lit.





1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-85
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863
 Text and tune: Public domain

Recessional



A NOTE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS

The children will go directly to the basement at the end of the service. Parents should meet their children there.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the children for telling the age-old story of Christ's birth and reminding us of the peace that comes to us through the incredible gift of our Savior, Jesus. Special thank you to Jack and Chad Lauderback for the banner stands, Cheryl for serving as organist, the Sunday School teaching staff for their assistance and to our parents for helping children learn lines and getting them to practices.



AND SHE WILL HAVE A SON,
AND YOU ARE TO NAME HIM

JESUS

FOR HE WILL
SAVE HIS PEOPLE
FROM THEIR SINS.

*Matthew 1:21
New Living Translation*

