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SAINT MICHAEL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH • LCMS
WINCHESTER ★ TEXAS

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS:

Welcome to Saint Michael's Lutheran Church! We are a historic congregation committed to continuing the mission of Jesus Christ in our community. We are very excited to have you worshipping the Lord with us this evening. You are always welcome in our church! Here are a few helpful things to know about Saint Michael's:

- Our beautiful and historic church building was built in 1906. Unfortunately, this means that it was not built with restrooms. Restrooms are located in our education building next door.
- A changing table for infants is located in classroom 4 in the education building.
- During our worship service, attendance books will be passed across the pews. Please take a moment to register your presence with us in the book and include your address and phone number so we can follow up with you in the future.
- Our pastor, Rev. Nate Hill, is always willing to meet with you to answer any questions that you might have about our church and beliefs or to be of help in any way that he is able. Please introduce yourself to him this evening. He will be thrilled to meet you!

We hope that you find Saint Michael's to be a place where you feel at home as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

MISSION STATEMENT:

Saint Michael's Lutheran Church exists to worship God, love one another, and serve all people according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Peace Came to Earth A Series of Services for Advent

Week 2: Peace to All, Near and Far

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.

Opening Hymn *“Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear”*

LSB #908

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

C Amen.

(The first and second Advent candles are lit.)

Opening Sentences

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

P and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C Mighty God,

P Everlasting Father,

C Prince of Peace.

P The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 85:1-9

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

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
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.**

Children's Sermon

Hymn

*"Peace Came to Earth"
(see next page)*

Peace Came to Earth

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

GOD WITH US
Timothy Shaw



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known You, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light
The in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt
In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,
How else could I have loved You, O my God!



And God em - bod - ied love and sheathed His might—
The wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—
In bread and wine You vis - it us a - gain—
How else could I em - brace You, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

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First Reading

Ephesians 2:12-18

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.

Verse

Luke 3:4b, 6

P Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

C all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

Second Reading

John 14:25-31

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.

Reading Response

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

*If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online,
you may do so at www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give*

**Magnificat**

Luke 1:46-55

- [P]** Mary rejoiced that the Lord was coming to earth to reconcile us to the Father, bringing us peace through His blood. Let us now use her song of praise to rejoice in our Advent Savior.
- [C]** **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**
- [P]** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- [C]** **For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.**
- [P]** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- [C]** **He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.**
- [P]** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
- [C]** **He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.**

**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.**

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior!

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.

Collect for Peace

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
C give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give,
P that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we,
being defended from the fear of our enemies,
C may live in peace and quietness;
P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Benediction

John 14:27

P Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world
gives do I give to you.
C Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."
P Go forth then, children of God, reconciled by Him who fulfills God's Word,
rejoicing in His presence and knowing His perfect peace. The blessing of
almighty God – the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit – be with you and
remain with you always.
C Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

LSB #343