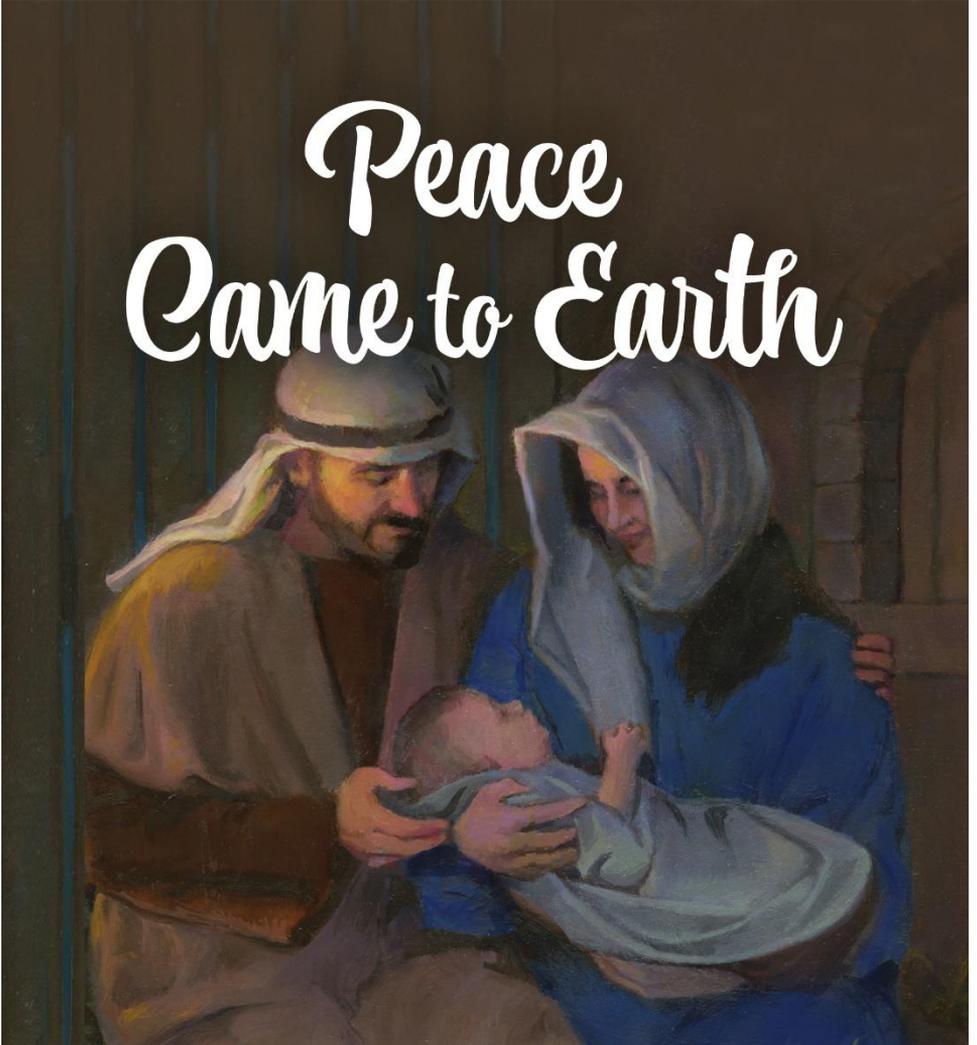


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

Peace
Came to Earth



Advent Worship December 20, 2023

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

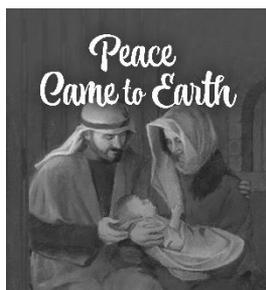
church@lcsavior.org

781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Midweek of Advent 3

Advent Worship December 20, 2023



Our Peace Rests on Him Alone

During one of the busiest and most stressful times of the year, we pause this third week of Advent and consider the source of real and abiding peace. This harmony with both God and others comes to us neither through our exertions of control nor through our best-laid plans, but through the reign of our Mighty God come near to us in Jesus, His one and only Son. The fulfillment of our everlasting Father's perfectly executed plan to save the world is revealed to us in the straw of the Bethlehem manger and then, some thirty-three years later, in the wood and nails of Calvary's cross. Amid the disorder of our chaotic lives, our Prince of Peace gives us what the world can never give. Let us center our hearts and minds on our Wonderful Counselor, who freely gives His everything so that our peace may rest on Him alone.

VESPERS

Prelude

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 126

Read responsively

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

²Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

³**The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.**

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!**

⁵Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

**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.**

Office Hymn

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text and Tune: Public domain

Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

L A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**



Second Reading

Romans 12:9–21

L A reading from Romans, the twelfth chapter.

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Third Reading

Matthew 10:34–39

L A reading from Matthew, the tenth chapter.

³⁴"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory for Advent

LSB 230

- L** 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.**
- L** 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.**
- L** 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.**

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 sts. 1, 6–7

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el

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

Text and Tune: Public domain



Canticle

Antiphon

LSB 231

- Ⓘ Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- Ⓒ **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Magnificat

LSB 231

- Ⓘ My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
- Ⓒ **for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**
- Ⓘ For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- Ⓒ **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.
- Ⓒ **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**
- Ⓘ He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
- Ⓒ **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**
- Ⓘ 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.**

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 233

- L** Lord, have mercy;
- C** **Christ, have mercy;**
- L** Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 233

- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we 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.**

Collects

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day

- L** 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.**

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect

L 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

L 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 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234

L The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.



Closing Hymn

Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing.



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
Pledge of peace here giv - en. Man - na that will
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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Advent, Christmas & New Year's Worship

Please join us in worship in this new Church Year



Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm



Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Monday, December 25th at 9:00 am



New Year's Eve Worship

Sunday, December 31st at 7:00 pm