

WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

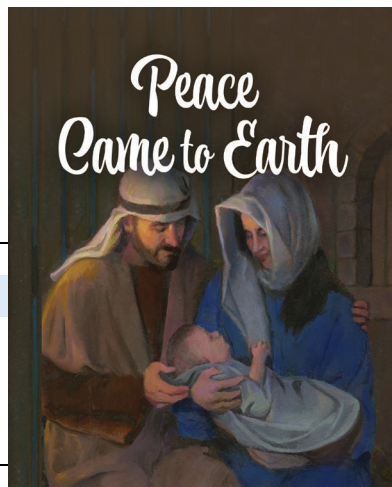
ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE ~ "Peace Came to Earth"

DECEMBER 6, 2023 | 7 PM

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL ✠ SEEK THE THIRSTY ✠ TEACH THE WORD

Welcome ❄️

If you are watching our livestream for the first time, please fill out a Connection Card so we may get to know you better by scanning this QR code.



As We Gather ❄️

The season of Advent is filled with the relentless seeking of things. Shopping is in full swing, and we hear the promise again and again: If we have all the right stuff, buy all the perfect gifts, attend all the posh parties, and decorate with all the trendy decorations, then we will feel complete and at peace. Counter this line of thinking with what God's Word teaches us about contentment. The apostle Paul writes, "Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content" (1 Timothy 6:6–8). As we pause during this first week of Advent and pray for the Lord to stir up our hearts for the arrival of His Son, we remember the story of the ancient Magi, who followed the star and found contentment in the King who had been born to save them. Jesus now invites us also to follow Him and receive from Him that same peace, that "godliness with contentment," which the Magi also received.

The service in its entirety is printed in this worship folder.

In the Name of Jesus ❄️

OPENING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332, v. 1-4



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

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.**
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.

INTROIT

Psalm 80:1-7; antiphon: v.7

P Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
C **Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!**
P You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
C **Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!**
P Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
C **O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?**
P You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
C **You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

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.**

FIRST READING

1 Timothy 6:6-9

⁶Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

ADVENT RESPONSORY

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.

SERMON HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee.
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.
There for - ev - er may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

SERMON

"Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near"

Rev. Shawn Deterding

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 (I = Left side; II = Right Side)

LSB, p. 231-32

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

I For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

II For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;

II And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

II He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

I He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

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.

OFFERING

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB, p. 233

C **Our Father who art in heaven...**

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C **And let my cry come to You.**

[After each Collect, Congregation will respond, "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.**

CLOSING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thyne all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.



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Worship with us next Wednesday, December 13!

6 PM – Advent Fellowship Meal (Italian theme)

Please bring a favorite dish to share! If your dish contains nuts, please mark as such.

7 PM – Advent Vespers Service – “PEACE TO ALL, NEAR AND FAR”

