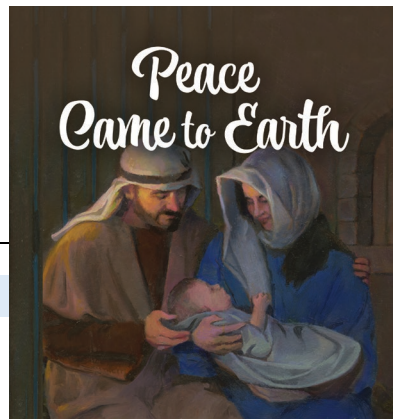


WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE ~ "Peace Came to Earth"

DECEMBER 13, 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 ❄️

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.

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

In the Name of Jesus ❄️

OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

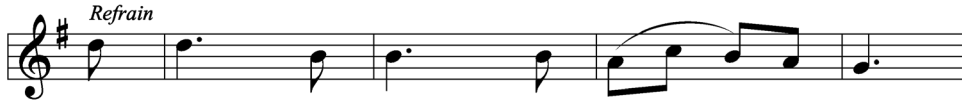
LSB 357, v. 1-4

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 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!

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

Psalms 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

Psalms 85:1-7; antiphon: v.9

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

C **LORD, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

P You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.

C **You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.**

P Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!

C **Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?**

P Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

C **Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.**

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

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

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.

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.

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joi - ce and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.

SERMON

“Peace to All, Near and Far”

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357, v. 5-7

5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
 6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
 by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
 hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
 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!



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Worship with us next Wednesday, December 20!

6 PM – Advent Fellowship Meal (Potluck)

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

7 PM – Advent Vespers Service – “OUR PEACE RESTS ON HIM ALONE”



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