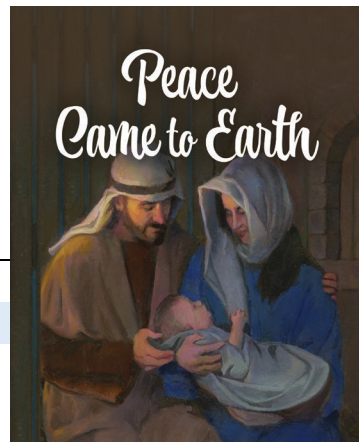


WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE ~ "Peace Came to Earth"

DECEMBER 20, 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 service folder.

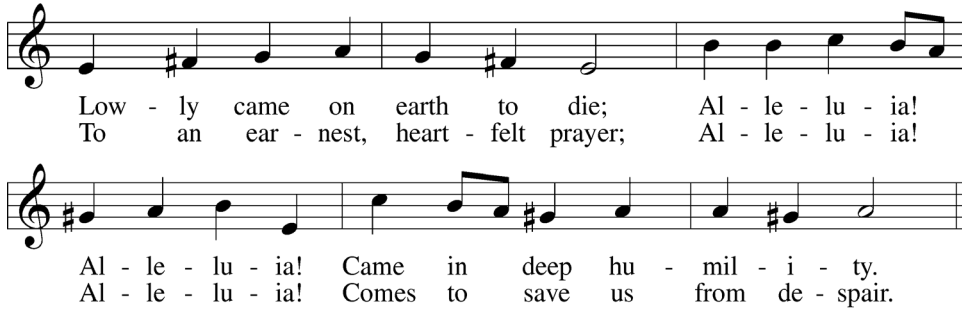
In the Name of Jesus ✨

OPENING HYMN

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353, v. 1-2

1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.

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 126

P When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
C **Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

P Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
C **The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.**

P Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!
C **Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**

P He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
C **Shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**

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

Isaiah 9:1-7

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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:34-39

³⁴[Jesus said,] "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."

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

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 - ya 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.

SERMON

"Our Peace Rests on Him Alone"

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

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353, v. 3-4



3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

