



Christ Our Savior

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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Rev. Dean M. Davenport, Senior Pastor

Rev. Joel A. Werner, Associate Pastor

Peace Came to Earth

Our Peace Rests on Him Alone

December 13, 2023 ~ 7:00pm

Welcome to God's house! Here we meet Jesus, right where He promises to be, in Word and Sacrament. We are so glad you came!

We love children at Christ Our Savior. Parents are encouraged to sit in the front pews so young children can see what is happening during worship. A nursery and a family lounge off the Advent Lobby are available for those who prefer these areas. Ask an usher for directions.

Acknowledgements

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AS WE GATHER

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.

Order of Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Joy of Mary"
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
"God With Us"

German Carol
Caedmon's Call
Jeremy Camp

WELCOME

✠ Preparation ✠

INVOCATION

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

OPENING HYMN

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

LSB 352

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
2. What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.
3. Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold— Truly came, as long foretold.
4. As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.
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.

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 4:7

- 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

Psalms 126

- P** When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
C **we were like those who dream.**
P Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
C **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.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- 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, who steps into the chaos of our world, that we may know the peace that rests on Him alone. 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.**

HYMN

Peace Came to Earth

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

GOD WITH US
Timothy Shaw

All: 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

Isaiah 9:1–7

P 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9–21

P 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Psalms 85:8

- P** Alleluia. Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
C **for He will speak peace to His people. Alleluia.**

THIRD READING

Matthew 10:34–39

- P** 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."

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

- C** **Thanks be to God.**

READINGS 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.**

SERMON HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357

- 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.**

***Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

- 6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain***

- 7. O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain***



Please remove the **Friendship Pad** from the hymn rack on the center aisle and fill out your information.
Take note of the people sitting around you – welcome each other by name!

OFFERTORY

MAGNIFICAT

Luke 1:46–55

- P** Mary rejoiced that the Lord was coming to earth, stepping into the center of our troubled world to deliver to us the gifts of heaven—peace with the Father. 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

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to 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.**

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

Isaiah 9:6b

- P** His name shall be called
C **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
P Go forth then, children of God, living securely in Him and in harmony with one another, 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 HY MN

"Once He Came in Blessing"

LSB 333

- 1. Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.**
- 2. Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.**

continued

- 3. Soon will come that hour When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.**
- 4. Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.**

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SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS –

Liturgy: Pastor Davenport
Preaching: Pastor Mark Schumm; Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills
Organist: Matt Fremder
Musicians: Lois Drake, piano
Susan Drake, Gillian Drake, Mark and Amy Ingersoll, vocalists
Gillian Drake, percussion; Mark Ingersoll, guitar; Marjorie Beck, viola
Elder: Mark Anders
Acolyte: Isabelle Collings
Greeter: Kathy Kangas
Media Team: Diane Christianson, Gillian Drake, Laurie Riegel
Ushers: Team 7; Jim Edwards, Captain
Dan Dobberfuhr, Ruth Dobberfuhr, Jeff Myers, Dan Rogers
Welcome Desk: Jim and Amy Maloney