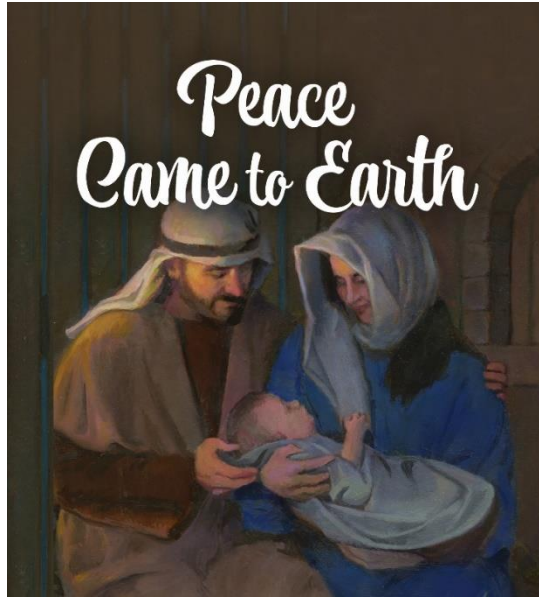


# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



## **Advent Vespers**

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

## **LOOK UP! THE STAR OF PEACE DRAWS NEAR**

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.

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**HYMN – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1 & 2)**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.	2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord’rest all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!	Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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**OPENING VERSICLES**

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

Restore us, O | God of hosts;\*  
let Your face shine, that we | may be saved!  
**Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,**  
**You who lead Joseph | like a flock!\***  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.  
Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,\*  
**stir up Your might**  
**and come to | save us!**  
Restore us, | O God;\*  
let Your face shine, that we | may be saved!  
**O LORD | God of hosts,\***  
**how long will You be angry with Your | people’s prayers?**  
You have fed them with the | bread of tears\*  
and given them tears to drink in full | measure.  
**You make us an object of contention for our | neighbors,\***  
**and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.**  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\* and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
**Restore us, O | God of hosts;\***  
let Your face shine, that we | may be saved!

## SERIES HYMN – Peace Came to Earth



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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## ✠ ✠ ✠ READINGS ✠ ✠ ✠

### FIRST READING – *1 Timothy 6:6–9*

**P** A reading from 1 Timothy, the sixth chapter.

<sup>6</sup>Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup>But 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.**

### SECOND READING – *Matthew 2:1-2, 9–10*

**P** A reading from Matthew, the second chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “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.”

<sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

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

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

### RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

**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 – LSB 397 – As with Gladness Men of Old



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.

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## 7pm – CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON – *Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near*

## ✠ ✠ ✠ CANTICLE ✠ ✠ ✠

### ANTIPHON

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

## MAGNIFICAT – LSB 934



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
 2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
 3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
 4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
 maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
 those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
 leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
 light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
 tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
 el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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## OFFERING

✠ ✠ ✠ PRAYER ✠ ✠ ✠

## KYRIE



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

(after each collect)

**L** ... one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICAMUS

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

**L** 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.

## HYMN – LSB 763 – When Peace, like a River



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My  
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

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## Acknowledgments

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## SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS



# Advent & Christmas 2023

**Wednesdays – December 6, 13, 20**  
**Midweek Advent Fellowship & Worship:**  
12 Noon **Worship** · 12:30pm Meal  
5:45pm Meal · 6:45pm Carols · 7pm\* **Worship**

**Wednesday, December 6** – 11:45am  
**Preschool Christmas Program *Preview***

**Friday, December 8** – 6pm  
**Preschool Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 17** – 10:30am\*  
**Sunday School Christmas service**

**Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**  
9:15am Multi-age activity  
10:30am\* Divine Service (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent)  
5pm\* & 7pm **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

**Christmas Day** – 10am\*  
**Worship** with Holy Communion

**Sunday, December 31 – New Year's Eve**  
8:00am + 10:30am\* + 5pm  
Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:15am Multi-age activity

\* Service will also be **livestreamed**  
on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) (FaithBtownLCMS)  
Follow the bulletin available on our [website](#).