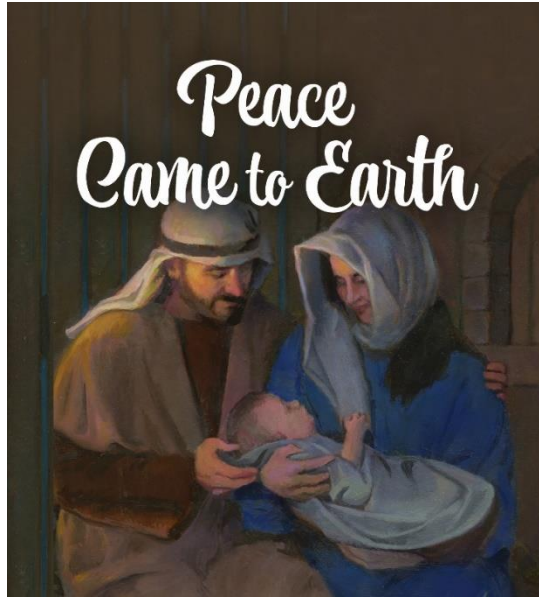


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

PEACE TO ALL, NEAR AND FAR

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.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) † [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) † [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)

2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN † 812-332-1668 † office@faithbtown.org

HYMN – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1 & 4)

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!

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

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 85:1-9; antiphon: v. 9

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

LORD, You were favorable | to Your land;*

You restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

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

You withdrew | all Your wrath;*

You turned from Your hot | anger.

Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*
and put away Your indignation | toward us!

Will You be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will You prolong Your anger to all gener- | ations?

Will You not revive | us again,*
that Your people may re- | joice in You?

Show us Your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us Your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
but let them not turn back to | folly.



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

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 – *Ephesians 2:12–18*

P A reading from Ephesians, the second chapter.

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.

SECOND READING – *John 14:25–31*

P A reading from John, the fourteenth chapter.

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.

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 347 – Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o’er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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7:00 pm – CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON – *Peace to All, Near and Far*

✠ ✠ ✠ 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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Thank you to the
First
Presbyterian
Church
Handbell Choir
under the
direction of Dr.
Brian McNulty
for enhancing
our evening
worship.

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

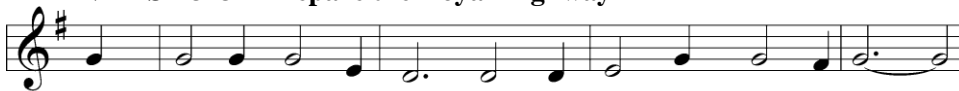
- L** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

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 343 – Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS



Advent & Christmas 2023

Full schedule is available from an usher or at FaithBtown.org.

Wednesday, December 20

FINAL Midweek Advent Fellowship & Worship:

12 Noon **Worship** · 12:30pm Meal

5:45pm Meal · 6:45pm Carols · 7pm* **Worship**

Sunday, December 17 (10:30am*) Sunday School Christmas service

Christmas Eve (5pm* & 7pm) Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day (10am*) Worship with Holy Communion

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