



***Immanuel Lutheran Church
Mid-Week Advent Service Two December 13, 2023
Peace by God's Star of Promise - Matthew 2: 1-2***

(The Peace of God in our lives is not the absence of conflict, but is the unity between God and man by Christ removing the barrier of sin and granting to us His righteousness. We have peace with God, because He does not see us covered in sin, but sees us covered in the blood of His Son; therefore viewing us in His Son's holiness. Heaven has been opened to us and He has built us our place in eternity. We live in the comfort of His peace forever!)

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: "Hark the Glad Sound" 349

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne And every voice a song.

Our glad hosannas Prince of Peace, The welcome shall proclaim
And heav'ns eternal arches ring With Your beloved name.

He comes to bring us peace on earth A peace that will proclaim.
The loving mercy He will bring To all through His holy name.

A Child of promise Child of hope The Lord who comes to earth;
To heal the wounds that sin has brought His peace through holy birth.

A Star of Promise He will give To show His Son is giv'n
A sign of wonder for us all Gift from His throne in heav'n.

Invocation: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!*

Advent Litany:

P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth

C: *Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.*

P: Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: *Make His paths straight.*

P: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

C: *Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth, and bring us peace!*

Psalmody: *Psalm 85: vs. 1, 2, 8- 13*

P: You showed favor to Your land, O Lord; You restored the fortunes of Jacob. C: *You forgave the iniquity of Your people and covered all their sin.*

P: I will listen to what God the Lord will say; C: *He promises peace to His people, His saints—but let them not return to folly.*

P: Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land. C: *Love and faithful springs forth from the earth, righteousness and peace kiss each other.*

P: The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. C: *Righteousness will go before Him and prepares the way for His footsteps.*

ALL: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen!*

P: The Lord be with you! C: *And also with you!*

Collect: *O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Choir: *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

O. T. Lesson: *Isaiah 54: 8-10 “In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but from everlasting love I will have compassion on you”, says the Lord, your Redeemer. “This is like the days of Noah to me; as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you For the mountain may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

Epistle Lesson: *Ephesians 2: 11-16 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*

Gospel Lesson: *(Please Rise) Matthew 2: 1-2 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, 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,.*

Hymn: “*Jesus came from Heav’ns Adoring*” (tune 353)

Jesus came the heav’ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die
Alleluia! Alleluia! Lowly came on earth to die.

Jesus came to bring His blessings Bring His blessings to us all
Jesus came to unify us With a peace that cannot fall
Alleluia! Alleluia! With a peace that cannot fall!

Jesus’ star proclaimed from heaven Peace had now been born on earth!
Father’s promise to His people All was changed through His Son’s birth!
Alleluia! Alleluia! All was changed through His Son’s birth!

Savior of the nations bless us Bless us with Your peace and love
Keep us Yours in grace and favor With Your mercy from above.
Alleluia! Alleluia! With Your mercy from above.

Children’s Sermon:

Sermon

Offerings brought to the Altar

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed by 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 u not into temptation, But deliver us from evil, For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Hymn: *"What Hope! An Eden Prophesied" 342*

Come, Jesus come, Messiah Lord, Lost paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword -- Come, open heaven's door.

Your Star announced a healing gift A Child of promise giv'n
The Hope of nations born on earth Salvation brought from heav'n.

Closing Collect: *Gracious Father, bring to us the wonder of Your presence and remain near us in all we do; keeping us free from evil and cleansing us of our daily sin. Restore daily Your peace upon us and hold us in Your loving arms, keeping us bound to You and protected from the power of sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen!*

Choir Benediction: *"May the Love of God Shine Through You"*