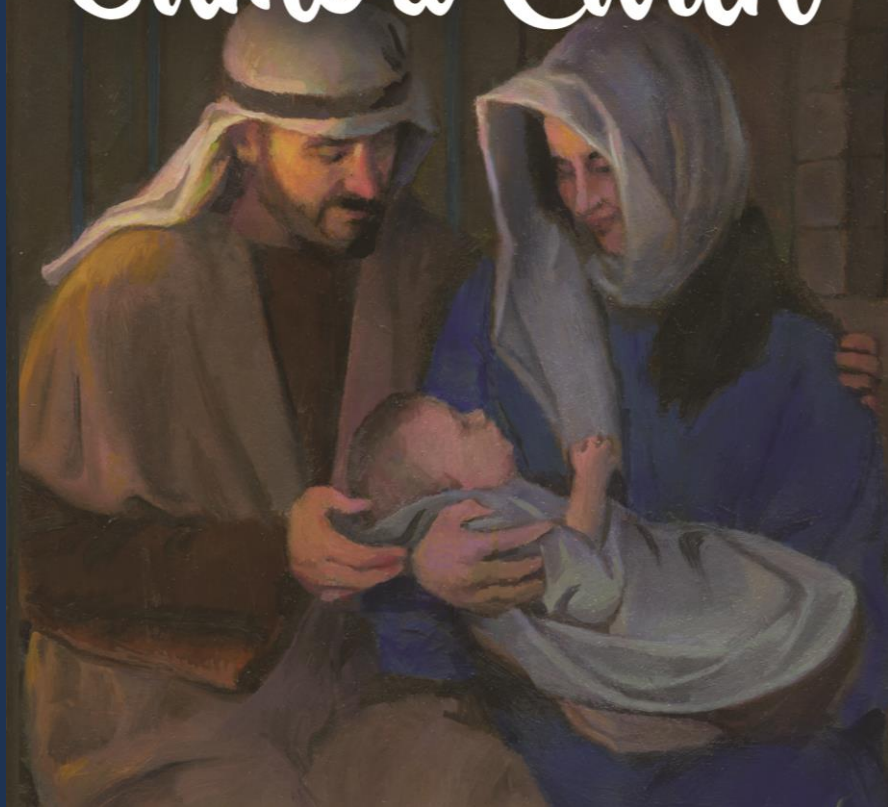


Peace Came to Earth



Advent 1 Midweek

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023

ADVENT MIDWEEK 1

December 6, 2023

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

Holy Communion is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

THEME: “LOOK UP! THE STAR OF PEACE DRAWS NEAR”

AS WE GATHER: While we often seek peace through more possessions, God’s great gift has already come. God stops us as a wise Father and says, “Look up and see a lasting star and treasure, the gift of My Son.”

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“The Advent of Our King”

- 1 The advent of our King, Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing, In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son, Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on, To set His servants free.
- 3 O Zion’s daughter, rise, To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise, The peace He comes to bring.

△ 6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one, Through all eternity.

The Advent of Our King, Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

OPENING PRAYER

- P** Heavenly Father,
- You have given us wonderful gifts throughout this Advent season with a view toward Christmas. While we often focus on the gifts found under a Christmas tree, point us to Your Son, the true gift. By His coming, You have brought us lasting peace. Make that peace the high point of our Advent preparations. We pray in Jesus' name.
- C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 34:1; 3-4; 8-9; 14 (ESV)

P ¹ I will bless the LORD at all times;

C **His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

P ³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

C **and let us exalt His name together!**

P ⁴ I sought the LORD,

C **and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**

P ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

C **Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**

P ⁹ Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints,

C **for those who fear Him have no lack!**

P ¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good;

C **seek peace and pursue it.**

EPISTLE

1 Timothy 6:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–2, 9–10 (ESV)

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

⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

What Is The World To Me

What is the world to me
With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone,
Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord,
My soul’s delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest.
What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth
And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content
Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good,
Content with it I’ll be:
My Jesus is my wealth.
What is the world to me!

What is the world to me!
My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth,
My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all,
My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
What is the world to me!

What Is The World To Me, Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

MESSAGE “LOOK UP! THE STAR OF PEACE DRAWS NEAR”

1 Timothy 6:6–8; Matthew 2:1–2, 9–10

Pastor Jim Sprengle

PRAYERS (following each petition)

P “Lord, in Your mercy,”

C “hear our prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Mt 6:9ff; Lk 11:2ff*)

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.**

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

(Matthew 6:19–21)

P Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,

C **where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,**

P but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven,

C **where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

P For where your treasure is,

C **there your heart will be also.**

CLOSING PRAYER

P Heavenly Father,

thank You for giving us true treasure and peace through the news of the Messiah’s birth. Help us seek peace, not through the gaining of more things but in the riches of forgiveness and eternal life brought by the Messiah born in Bethlehem. Help us see His coming with joy this Advent. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

HYMN

When Peace, like a River

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

**Refrain It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. **(refrain)**

He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **(refrain)**

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. **(refrain)**

When Peace, like a River, Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt., Text: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: www.alcportland.org

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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