

PEACE CAME TO EARTH
MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1
December 6, 2023
"THE STAR OF PEACE HAS COME!"

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN No. 332 "Savior of the Nations, Come" (vss. 1, 7, 8)

**Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, Oh heaven and earth, That our Lord chose such a birth.**

**From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.**

**Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

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 80:1–3,7*

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

C: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

P: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

C: stir up Your might and come to save us!

**P: Restore us, O God of hosts;
C: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P: Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by the light of Your Word, we may be drawn to Jesus and lay our lives before Him in worship, receiving from Him the gift of peace. 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 No. 395 "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (vss. 1,5,6)

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light,
A-glow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's son, Our Lord and master, you have won
Our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the Story!
Great is he, the King of glory!**

**What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace, Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning
For the day of your returning**

FIRST READING *1 Timothy 6:6–9*

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

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

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Psalms 24:7*

P: Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates!

C: And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.

SECOND READING *Matthew 2:1–2, 9–10*

P: A reading from Matthew, the second chapter.

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: O Lord, help us to worship You.

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.

HYMN No. 397 “As with Gladness Men of Old” (vss. 1 & 4)

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by thee.**

**Holy Jesus, ev’ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.**

SERMON “The Star of Peace Has Come Pastor Perry Schefelker

OFFERING

MAGNIFICAT *Luke 1:46–55*

P: Mary rejoiced that the Lord was coming to earth, drawing all people to Himself, the true star of Bethlehem, our Prince of Peace. 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.

**ALL: 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.**

ALL: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior!

LORD'S PRAYER

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 wholesome 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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD *Matthew 2:10*

P: When [the Magi] saw the star,

C: they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

P: Go out then, children of God, with the light of Christ leading your way, rejoicing in His presence and knowing His peace. The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

HYMN No. 763 “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:

**It is well 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)**