

## Midweek of Advent 1

December 4, 2024

### Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near

**As We Gather** -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.

**Offering and Registry of Worship Cards:** Please fill out a Registry of Worship Card found in the pew racks. We ask that you print the names of every person in your family. One side of the card is for members and the other side for guests. Offering and Worship Cards will be received in the offering plates at the rear of the church upon entering or when leaving. Thank you for your gift to the work of the Lord.

**About Protecting the Healthy:** To protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases, individuals may choose to mask at any time. Appropriate hand washing by everyone is encouraged. People with symptoms of an infectious illness are highly encouraged to stay home. Symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Thank you for helping to keep everyone healthy as we receive God's gifts in worship.

**GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.**

**Prelude and Meditation:** Before worship we talk to God (see prayers on page 308 in the hymnal); during worship God talks to us; after worship we talk to one another.

**Prelude:**

# Hymn of Invocation:

# Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

*Δ Please stand after a brief interlude*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

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

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

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973  
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
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## Opening Sentences

*Isaiah 9:6; Philipians 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

*Psalm 80:1–7*

**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;

**C** **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**P** O Lord God of hosts,

**C** **how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?**

**P** You have fed them with the bread of tears

**C** **and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

- P** You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
- C** **and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

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

**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 the light of Your Holy Word, we may be drawn to Jesus and lay our lives before Him in worship, receiving from Him the gift of perfect 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:**

**Peace Came to Earth**



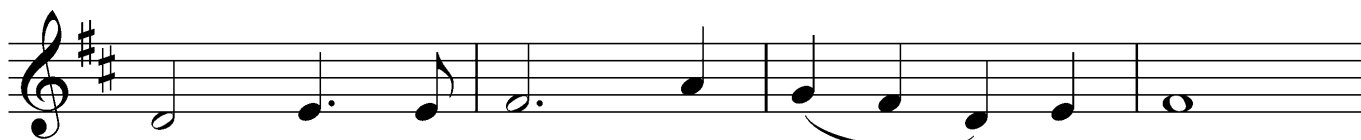
1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night  
 2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held  
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
 4 How else could I have known You, O my God!



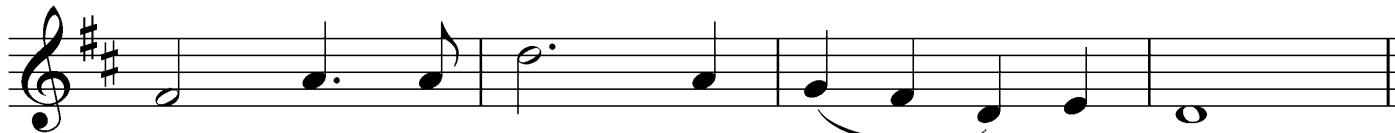
When an - gels clove the sky with song and light  
 The in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt  
 In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,  
 How else could I have loved You, O my God!



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!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Timothy Shaw

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## 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.**

## Verse

Psalm 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.

<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.

## Readings Response

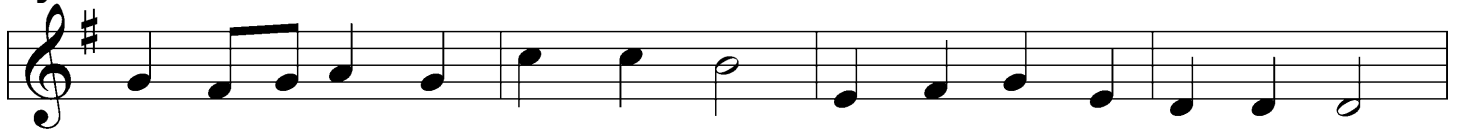
**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

## Hymn:

### As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397



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.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon:

### Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near 1 Timothy 6:6–8, Matthew 2:1–2, 9–10



## 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

*Additional prayers may be offered here for the specific needs of the congregation and community.*

## Collect for Peace

- P** O God, from whom come all holy 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.**

## Benediction

*Matthew 2:10*

- P** When [the Magi] saw the star,
- C** **they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.**
- P** Go forth then, children of God, with the light of Christ leading your way, rejoicing in His presence and knowing His perfect peace. The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you and remain with you always.
- C** **Amen.**



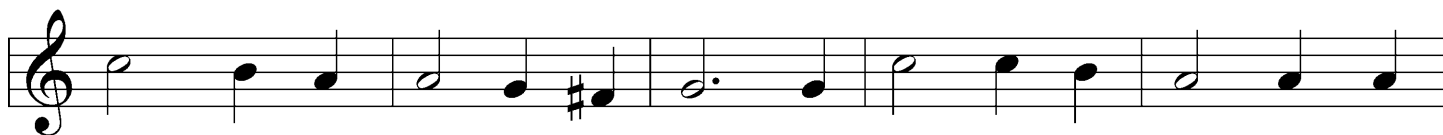
**Closing Hymn:**

**When Peace, like a River**

LSB 763



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

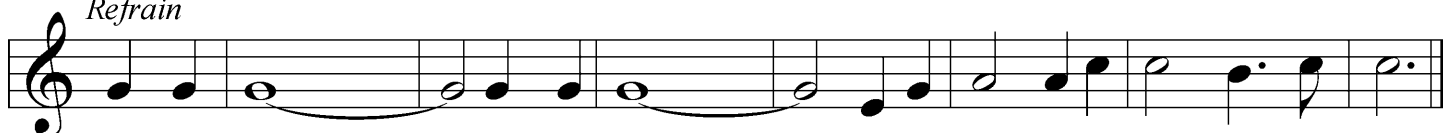


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



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.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt. Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–76 Text and tune: Public domain

**Postlude:**

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