

## **Midweek of Advent 2**

**December 11, 2024**

### **Peace to All, Near and Far**

**As We Gather** - 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.

**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.**

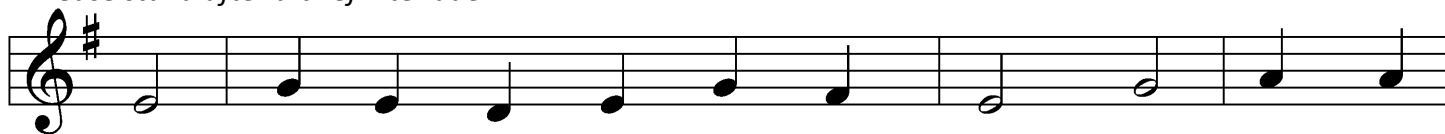
**Prelude and Meditation:** Before worship we talk to God (see prayers on page 308 in the hymnal); during worship God talks to us; after worship we talk to one another.

**Prelude:**

# Hymn of Invocation: Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

LSB 908

△ Please stand after a brief interlude



1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your  
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants  
△ 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the



Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -  
heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and  
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or



tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.  
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.  
be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Mark A. Jeske, 1952

Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852

Text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public domain

## 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

*Psalm 85:1–9*

**P** Lord, You were favorable to Your land;

**C** **You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

**P** You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

**C** **You covered all their sin.**

**P** You withdrew all Your wrath;

**C** **You turned from Your hot anger.**

**P** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

**C** **and put away Your indignation toward us!**

**P** Will You be angry with us forever?

**C** **Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?**

**P** Will You not revive us again,

**C** **that Your people may rejoice in You?**

**P** Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,

**C** **and grant us Your salvation.**

**P** Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

**C** **for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

**P** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

**C** **that glory may dwell in our land.**

### **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 healed of our brokenness, rejoicing in Him who alone is our 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.

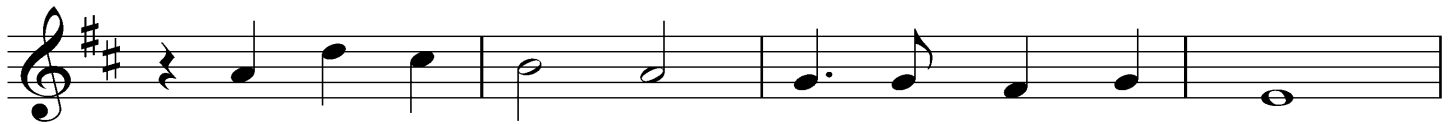
**C** **Amen.**

**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!



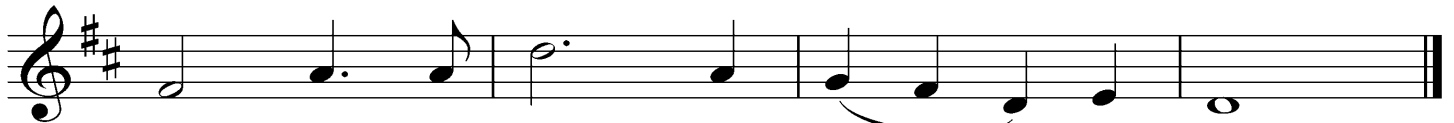
When an - gels clove the sky with song and light  
 The in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt  
 In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,  
 How else could I have loved You, O my God!



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***Ephesians 2:12–18*

**P** A reading from Ephesians, the second chapter.

<sup>12</sup>remember 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. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup>And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Verse

*Luke 3:4b, 6*

**P** Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

**C** **all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

### Second Reading

*John 14:25–31*

**P** A reading from John, the fourteenth chapter.

<sup>25</sup>“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But 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. <sup>27</sup>Peace 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. <sup>28</sup>You 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. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. <sup>30</sup>I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup>but 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.**

### 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.**

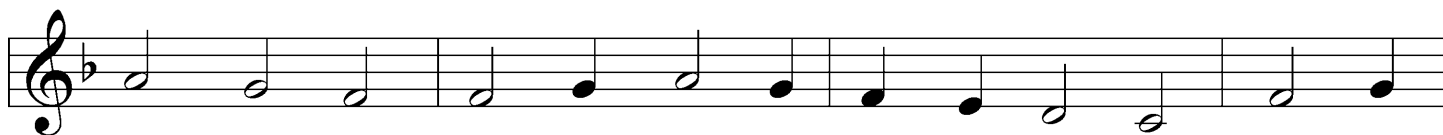
## Hymn:

## Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347



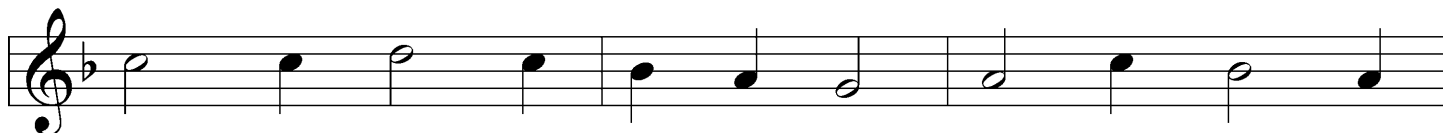
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



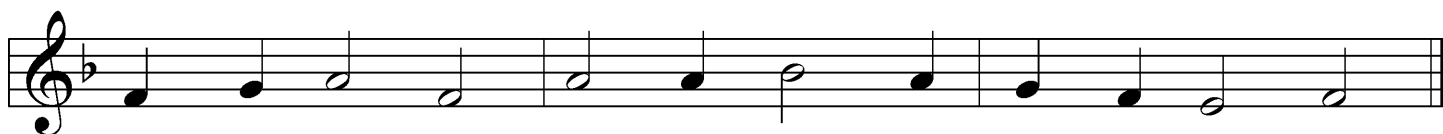
saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'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.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon:

**Peace to All, Near and Far  
Ephesians 2:12–18**



**Magnificat**

*Luke 1:46–55*

- P** Mary rejoiced that the Lord was coming to earth to reconcile us to the Father, bringing us peace through His blood. 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.**

### 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

*John 14:27*

- P** Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
- C** **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."**
- P** Go forth then, children of God, reconciled by Him who fulfills God's Word, 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:

### Prepare the Royal Highway

*LSB 343*



- 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.



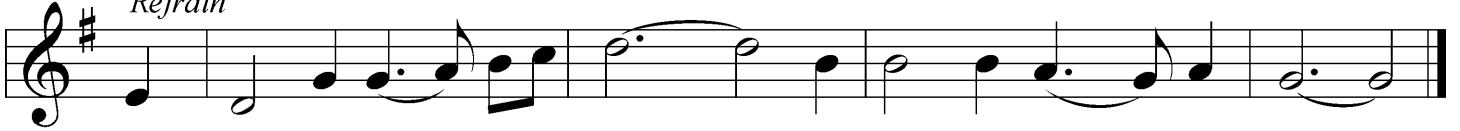
- Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
- Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
- Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
- His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.





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!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

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## Postlude:

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