

Midweek Advent 2

PEACE TO ALL, NEAR AND FAR

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.

Hymn: LSB 908

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. **AMEN.**

FIRST READING: EPHESIANS 2:12–18

P A reading from Ephesians, the second chapter.

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

John 14:25–31

P A reading from John, the fourteenth chapter.

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But 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. ²⁷Peace 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. ²⁸You 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. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹but 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: LSB 355

SERMON

OFFERING

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!

**HYMN: LSB 347
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.**

PRAYERS

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.**

HYMN: LSB 343

