



## OUR PEACE RESTS ON HIM ALONE

During one of the busiest and most stressful times of the year, we pause this third week of Advent and consider the source of real and abiding peace. This harmony with both God and others comes to us neither through our exertions of control nor through our best-laid plans, but through the reign of our Mighty God come near to us in Jesus, His one and only Son. The fulfillment of our everlasting Father's perfectly executed plan to save the world is revealed to us in the straw of the Bethlehem manger and then, some thirty-three years later, in the wood and nails of Calvary's cross. Amid the disorder of our chaotic lives, our Prince of Peace gives us what the world can never give. Let us center our hearts and minds on our Wonderful Counselor, who freely gives His everything so that our peace may rest on Him alone.

### HYMN - LSB 352: "Let the Earth now Praise the Lord"

#### 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 126*

- P** When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
**C** **we were like those who dream.**  
**P** Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
**C** **and our tongue with shouts of joy;**  
**P** then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done  
great things for them."

**C** The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

**P** Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negeb!

**C** Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

**P** He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

**C** shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

### 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, who steps into the chaos of our world, that we may know the peace that rests on Him alone. 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.

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:1–7

*Isaiah 9:1–7*

**P** A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter

#### **For to Us a Child Is Born**

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

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

**GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 10:34–39** *Matthew 10:34–39*

**P** A reading from Matthew, the tenth chapter.

### **Not Peace, but a Sword**

<sup>34</sup>Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup>And a person's enemies will be those of his

own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

**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 331: "The Advent of our King"

## SERMON

## OFFERING

## MAGNIFICAT

*Luke 1:46–55*

**P** Mary rejoiced that the Lord was coming to earth, stepping into the center of our troubled world to deliver to us the gifts of heaven—peace with the Father. 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 335: “Oh Bride of Christ Rejoice”**

**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

*Isaiah 9:6b*

- P** His name shall be called
- C** **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

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- P** His name shall be called
- C** **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P** Go forth then, children of God, living securely in Him and in harmony with one another, 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 357: “O Come, O Come, Immanuel”

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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