



## Prince of Peace

**HYMN: 900**

### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

### FIRST READING

*Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7*

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

<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>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.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** The Everlasting Father rules over all but also tenderly cares for His people. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**
- P** By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.
- C** **Amen.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 7*

- P** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You. Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?”
- C** **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed, saying,**
- P** “Let us burst Their bonds apart and cast away Their cords from us.”
- C** **He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.**
- P** Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying,
- C** **“As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”**
- P** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.

**C** Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.

**P** You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

**C** Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

**P** Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

**C** Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled.

**P** Blessèd are all who take refuge in Him.

**C** 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.

**I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me,  
“You are My Son; today I have begotten You.**

**SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 1:15–20** *Colossians 1:15–20*

**P** A reading from Colossians, the first chapter.

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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

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

**THIRD READING: JOHN 14:1–11**

*John 14:1–11*

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

<sup>1</sup>“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

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

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

## RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

*Jeremiah 23:5a, 6*

**P** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**C** **This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**P** In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

**C** **This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** **This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

## CATECHISM

*The Second Article*

**P** What does it mean that we believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

**C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

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## SERMON

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Wonderful Counselor, we come to You, Lord Jesus, thankful that You have enlightened us with the counsel of Your wonderful gracious word of forgiveness for all our sins. Help us, we pray, as we interact with people who may be entrapped by their sin, not knowing Your full forgiveness, and unable to rejoice at the anniversary of Your birth. Wonderful Counselor, use us and all we have to bring others to hear and believe the Good News. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Mighty God, we come to You in faith, gracious Lord, trusting that You were and are God in the flesh, our Immanuel. Strengthen all who are in distress from the worldly forces that surround them. Assure them of Your presence, strengthen their faith, and lead them to Your home above, where we may all rejoice together in Your love and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Everlasting Father, we come to You, O Lord, who conquered sin and death as ruler of creation while also serving Your people as a caring Father. Grant us to know always Your eternal presence among us, and help us to amend our lives and pass on the joy of Your eternal forgiveness to our neighbors, friends, and family. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Prince of Peace, we give thanks that You came to earth and paid for all that our sins deserved. Grant us steadfastness of faith to be at peace with one another, knowing that because of Your grace and love for us, we will be with You in eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** These things we pray to You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Show us the reality of eternity with You, O God.

**C** **Help us look beyond our personal problems of this day to that everlasting joy in Your presence that awaits us by Your gracious invitation;**

**P** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**



## LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

**©** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.  
Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**©** 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.

## **BENEDICTION**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠  
Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C** **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

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

## **HYMN: 341**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# THE *Joy* CANDLE

Also known as the Shepherds' Candle, this third candle of Advent signifies the joy of our coming Savior.

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

-Luke 1:46-47



