



“They Shall Dwell Secure”

Sunday, December 19, 2021 9:00AM

Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

Our world is filled with turmoil, strife, contention. Every time it seems that our nation or even our own lives are at peace, again something disrupts it. Peace is as elusive as a slippery eel. Today’s Readings point us to the truth that the peace we seek cannot come from the powers of the world, nor can it come from anything in our own hearts or our spiritual potential. Real peace comes from what seems like the least promising place: a little town, through the young Virgin. Peace comes from Bethlehem, from where God comes to us. From God’s Word. From the Bread of Life in Holy Communion. Real peace comes to us, often beyond our understanding, through the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, through whom God made peace with us by a cross.

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels

The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

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Stand

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.

- P** The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.
C We thank You, O Lord!
- P** The Lord's mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
C We adore You, O Lord!
- P** The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.
C We praise You, O Lord!
- P** The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.
C We worship You, O Lord!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 25:6–7

- P** Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

- P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.
C Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
C according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

ABSOLUTION

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

WORD

INTROIT

1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b–7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b–47

- P** My soul magnifies the Lord,
C and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
- P** My mouth derides my enemies,

C because I rejoice in Your salvation.

P There is none holy like the LORD;

C there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.

P The barren has borne seven,

C but she who has many children is forlorn.

P The LORD kills and brings to life;

C He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

P The LORD makes poor and makes rich;

C He brings low and He exalts.

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.

P My soul magnifies the Lord,

C and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Sit

HYMN

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

LSB 814

1 O bless the Lord, my soul!

Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favors are divine.

2 O bless the Lord, my soul,

Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die!

3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;

'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And makes thee young again.

4 He crowns thy life with love

When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;

He gives the sufferers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways

He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His beloved Son.

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 and help us by Your might,

C that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2–5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C righteous and having salvation.

P Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵ When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

P Alleluia! Alleluia!

C **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

P Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C **and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

LSB 336

- 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev’ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Ev’ry eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers.

With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

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SERMON

"They Shall Dwell Secure"

Micah 5:4B

Stand

NICENE CREED

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

☩ As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

- P** O Wisdom from on high, grant us peace. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to be peacemakers. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially . . .*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Key of David, let Your peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Lord of might, let the peace that surpasses human understanding, the peace that comes from being in Christ, so fill our hearts that we become signs of Your peace in this chaotic world. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, born of the Virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem brought peace and joy into this tumultuous world by His preaching, miracles, death, and resurrection. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** We give You all thanks, praise, and worship for the peace that comes through Jesus. For the forgiveness of our sins,
- C** we thank You, Lord.
- P** For embracing us as Your beloved children in Holy Baptism,
- C** we thank You, Lord.
- P** For giving us Your Word, which brings us down a notch when we are filled with pride and lifts us up when we are brought low,
- C** we thank You, Lord.
- P** For entering this broken creation to take upon Yourself all this world's sin and evil, to suffer and die, and then, in fulfillment of the ancient promise, to rise from the grave,
- C** we thank You, Lord.
- P** For this gift of Christ's body and blood, life-giving food for our journey through this tumultuous world, and that we may now live in Your kingdom and forever worship and adore You in the Kingdom to come,
- C** we thank You, Lord. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb,

Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

LSB 803

1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

△ 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

LSB 636

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,
And with loving rev'ence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him,
Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,
That I nevermore will leave You.

- 3 He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And His blood, for you once given.

- 4 Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
Pledge and seal of my salvation!

- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.

- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
 Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
 At Your feet I cry, my maker,
 Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven,
 For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You once left Your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forego all joy and gladness
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love requited;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace You give me
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

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Stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Lord God, we give You thanks for Christ's body and blood, this amazing gift by which we receive a renewed relationship of peace with You and with one another. Help us all to grow as peacemakers; 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

Luke 1:54-55; Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Praise the Almighty”

LSB 797

- 1 Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!
 Yes, I will laud Him until death;
 With songs and anthems I come before Him
 As long as He allows me breath.

From Him my life and all things came;
Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!

2 Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
Earthborn they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal,
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
Since mortals can no help afford,
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!

3 Blessèd, oh, blessèd are they forever
Whose help is from the Lord Most High,
Whom from salvation can nothing sever,
And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.
To all who trust in Him, our Lord
Will aid and counsel now afford.
Alleluia, alleluia!

4 Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,
Pardon and peace from Him obtain;
Ever the wants of the poor supplying,
Their faithful God He will remain.
He helps His children in distress,
The widows and the fatherless.
Alleluia, alleluia!

△ 5 Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Him solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia!

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ELEMENT

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