



“Christmas Peace”
Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 6:30PM
Fourth Wednesday in Advent

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“JESUS CAME, THE HEAVENS ADORING”

LSB 353

- 1 Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.
- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv’n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav’n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv’n.
- 4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate’er befalls us,
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comforts us in failing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

OPENING COLLECT

- C** Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love
you, and worthily magnify Your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, You strengthened Your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in the resurrection of Your Son. Grant us such faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that we may never be found wanting in Your sight; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

FIRST READING

Judges 6:36–40

Then Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.” And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. Then Gideon said to God, “Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew.” And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:7, 11–16

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. . . . And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“BY ALL YOUR SAINTS IN WARFARE”

LSB 517
sts. 1, 6, 3

1 By all Your saints in warfare,
For all Your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus,
Forevermore be blest!
For You have won the battle

That they might wear the crown;
And now they shine in glory
Reflected from Your throne.

- 6 St. Thomas, Apostle (December 21)
All praise, O Lord, for Thomas,
Whose short-lived doubtings prove
Your perfect twofold nature,
The fullness of Your love.
To all who live with questions
A steadfast faith afford;
And grant us grace to know You,
True man, yet God and Lord.

- △ 3 Then let us praise the Father
And worship God the Son
And sing to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne,
Ascribing pow'r and glory
And praise to God alone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.
Text: Public domain

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:24–29

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

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

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “**Peace be with you.**” Then he said to Thomas, “**Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.**” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “**Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

"CHRISTMAS PEACE"

NICENE CREED

C **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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P God of love and mercy,

C Hear our prayer

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P When you call to Me, I will answer you, says the Lord.

C I will be with you in trouble; I will rescue you and honor you.

P With long life the Lord will satisfy you

C and show you His salvation.

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

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.

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

HYMN

“ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”

LSB 367

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

△ 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. Refrain

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
Text: Public domain

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

SANCTUS

LSB 208

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** Holy and gracious Father: In Your infinite love You made us for Yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, You, in Your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, Your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to You, the God and Father of all.
- He stretched out His arms upon the cross, and offered Himself, in obedience to Your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night on which 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. Do this in remembrance of Me."
- In the same way also after supper, He took the cup; and when He had given thanks, He blessed it and gave it to His disciples and said, "Take, drink of this all of you: This cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for You and for many for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

- P** We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this our act of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling His death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts of bread and wine. Sanctify them by Your Holy Spirit to be for Your people the Body and Blood of Your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve You in unity, steadfastness, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all Your saints into the joy of Your eternal kingdom.

THE GREAT AMEN

- P** All this we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ: By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

INVITATION

- P** Welcome to the Lord's Table. Receive the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.
- C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

- C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING”

LSB 359

- 1 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow’ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah ’twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow’r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev’rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev’ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934; alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948

“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY”

LSB 376

- 1 Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.
Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Eternal God, Heavenly Father, You have graciously accepted us as living members of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and You have fed us with the spiritual food in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve You with gladness and unity of heart; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P 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.

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
 Now raise to heav'n our voice;
 He from whom joy streameth
 Poor in a manger lies;
 Not so brightly beameth
 The sun in yonder skies.
 Thou my Savior art!
 Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me;
 I cannot rise to Thee.
 Cheer my wearied spirit,
 O pure and holy Child;
 Through Thy grace and merit,
 Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
 Draw me unto Thee!
 Draw me unto Thee!
- 3 Now through His Son doth shine
 The Father's grace divine.
 Death was reigning o'er us
 Through sin and vanity
 Till He opened for us
 A bright eternity.
 May we praise Him there!
 May we praise Him there!
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
 Where but on heav'nly ground?
 Where the angels singing
 With all His saints unite,
 Sweetest praises bringing
 In heav'nly joy and light.
 Oh, that we were there!
 Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.
 Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in God's peace; love and serve your neighbor!
C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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