

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2

PEACE TO ALL, NEAR AND FAR

AS WE GATHER

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.

PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

setting by Jeffrey Blersch

HYMN **343** Prepare the Royal Highway

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 4:7

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

People: and the government will be upon His shoulders.

Pastor: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor,

People: Mighty God,

Pastor: Everlasting Father,

People: Prince of Peace.

Pastor: The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 85:1-9

Pastor: You showed favor to your land, O LORD;

People: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.

People: You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

Pastor: Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

People: Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?

Pastor: Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

People: Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

Pastor: I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints-- but let them not return to folly.

People: Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN 908 Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

**1 Lord, open now my heart to hear,
And through Your Word to me draw near;
Let me Your Word e'er pure retain;
Let me Your child and heir remain.**

**2 Your Word inspires my heart within;
Your Word grants healing from my sin;
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless;
Your Word brings peace and happiness.**

**Δ 3 To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Shall glory, praise, and honor be
Now and throughout eternity.**

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FIRST READING

Ephesians 2:12-18

¹² Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, Excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of The promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now In Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:25-31

²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸ "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. ³⁰ I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, ³¹ but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

READINGS RESPONSE

Pastor: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

People: **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

SERMON

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

setting by George Boehm

MAGNIFICAT

935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!**

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PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in Your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and holy rest and peace at the last. Lord, Jesus Christ.

People: Give us Your peace.

Pastor: O God our Father, by Your mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into Your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what You bless will prosper. To Your great love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that You alone are our sure defender. Lord, Jesus Christ.

People: Give us Your peace.

Pastor: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, comfort the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying—and all for Your love's sake. Lord, Jesus Christ.

People: Give us Your peace.

Pastor: Look down, O Lord, from Your heavenly throne, and illuminate this night with Your celestial brightness, that by night as by day Your people may glorify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good
counsels, and all just works,

People: give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world
cannot give,

Pastor: that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments
and also that we, being defended from the fear of our
enemies,

People: may live in peace and quietness;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

John 14:27

Pastor: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.

People: **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be
afraid."**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN 751 O God of Love, O King of Peace

- 1 O God of love, O King of peace,
Make wars throughout the world to cease;
The rage of nations now restrain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!
- 2 Remember, Lord, Thy works of old,
The wonders that Thy people told;
Remember not our sins' dark stain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!
- 3 Whom shall we trust but Thee, O Lord?
Where rest but on Thy faithful Word?
None ever called on Thee in vain:
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

**4 Where saints and angels dwell above,
 All hearts are knit in holy love;
 O bind us in that heav'nly chain:
 Give peace, O God, give peace again!**

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POSTLUDE

"Hark the Glad Sound (with Nachttanz)"

T. Susato

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Jedidiah McClellan
Liturgist:	Theodore Laesch
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