

The Light of Grace
A Series of Special Services for Advent
Week 2

Peace: Isaiah
Order of Service

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given ... and his name shall be called ^[L]_[SEP]Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Opening Hymn ... The Advent of Our King LSB#331

The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set his servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.

All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit ever one
Through all eternity.

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Candle

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(Two purple candles are lit on the Advent wreath.)

P Today we light the second candle on the Advent wreath, the candle of peace. We may be

afraid at times, because we live in a world filled with violence. We may become caught up in personal struggles and family quarrels. We need the peace that only Jesus can bring.

C Lord, grant us your peace.

P The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the promised Messiah, the child who would be called the Prince of Peace. He would rule over all things, and there would be no end to his kingdom of peace.

C Lord, grant us your peace.

P Jesus was born to bring us peace, the peace that comes through the forgiveness of our sins, peace that the world can never give, peace that Jesus alone brings.

C Lord, grant us your peace.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask him to have mercy on us.

C Almighty God, even though you grant us your peace, we often destroy that peace by causing strife. We quarrel with others and condemn them. We pursue our own selfish interests instead of showing love to others. We turn away from the guidance of your holy Word. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins and grant us your peace.

P God sent his Son, the Prince of Peace, to be our Savior. Jesus shed his precious, innocent blood, suffering the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Jesus, Prince of Peace, rule in our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.

Hymn of Response ... Amazing Grace LSB#744

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 9:1-7

Epistle Reading ... Colossians 1:13-20

Gospel Reading ... John 14:25-27

Sermon Hymn ... Comfort, Comfort Ye My People LSB#347

“Comfort, comfort ye my people, Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over.”

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.

Sermon

Hymn of Response ... Comfort, Comfort Ye My People LSB#347

Hark, the herald’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.

Apostles’ Creed

C 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

Prayers

Each petition concludes with the following response:

P Jesus, Prince of Peace,

C Fill our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction (Isaiah 9:6-7; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

C And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P 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.

C The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

P Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn ... Let Us All with Gladsome Voice LSB#390

Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears he comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for he was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.