

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD PRINCE OF PEACE

AS WE GATHER

During the season of Advent, we have prepared to celebrate the birth of God’s Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. We will examine the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

We long for peace in this world but fail to obtain it. Peace comes only through the gift of God in our Savior, Jesus Christ, come into the flesh for us at Christmas. He alone offers us true and lasting peace. Therefore, Jesus is given the title Prince of Peace. He rules over creation and gives us peace with God through His sacrifice for us, which also results in believers being at peace with one another.

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (*LSB* 379)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7

P A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

¹But 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.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

C ⁶For 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.

P ⁷Of 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 This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P We give thanks for the eternal peace our Savior, the Prince of Peace, won, becoming one of us and dying for us. We must confess that we do not see much peace in the world, and we know that we have not been at peace personally. Let us therefore confess our sins to 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.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Prince of Peace,

C **give us the assurance once again that because of Your great sacrifice for us, nothing shall separate us from eternity with You. Move us to share, in thought, word, and deed, this gracious, peace-filled news with all we meet.**

P We pray in Your holy name, Jesus, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ WORD +

HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (LSB 380)

(4:00 Service sung by Heike Quartet)

SECOND READING

Micah 5:2–5a

P The Second Reading is from Micah, the fifth chapter.

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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.

⁵And He shall be their peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 98

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

P The LORD has made known His salvation;

C He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

C break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

P Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

C With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

P Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

C Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.

P He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

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.

CHOIR

O Come All Ye Children

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

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

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“**Glory to God in the highest,**

and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN

“Joy to the World” (*LSB* 387)

SERMON

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.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High (LSB 368)
Choir sings vs. 2

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Luke 2:1–10

P In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Let us pray for all in authority—our national, state, and local leaders.

C Lord over all, give Your people wise and caring governments. Rule in their hearts and help those in authority make decisions and enact laws that work for the good of those under them and for their neighbors.

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

Let us pray for all the families of this earth.

C **Wonderful Counselor, open the hearts and minds of parents and children, and bestow a measure of love on all who live in families. Inspire each member to turn expressions of love into actions that increase Christian love and family togetherness. Guard and protect them from the assaults of all who would cause their love to grow cold.**

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Let us pray for all who are homeless, without adequate food, or needing warm clothing.

C **Mighty God, come to their aid, we implore You. Surround them with faithful people to meet their needs not only of food, clothing, and shelter but also for warmth, acceptance, and personal care.**

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Let us pray for all who toil at work this day.

C **Everlasting Father, in Your great ordering of all things, grant them faithful managers, healthy minds and bodies, strength of purpose, and resolve to do their best. Give them opportunity to celebrate this day, knowing they give others time to thank You for the gift of Your Son, in whose name we pray.**

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.

Let us pray for all who have not heard and believed the joyful news.

C **Prince of Peace, give opportunity and guidance to the church here and around the world so that the Gospel may be proclaimed and fearful people may be released from their bondage to sin. Grant that they find in You the answer to their deepest needs.**

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray,

C **for we pray in the name of the One whom You sent, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Hear us as we bring to You all that we have left unspoken, using the words You taught us:

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.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (LSB 366)

“Away in a Manger” (LSB 364)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LSB 361)

“Silent Night, Holy Night” (LSB 363)

Our worship continues at 10:00 tomorrow morning with the Liturgy of Holy Communion for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. Merry Christmas in Jesus’ name.

Thank you to Sally McGee for sponsorship of the bulletin in memory of loved ones.



