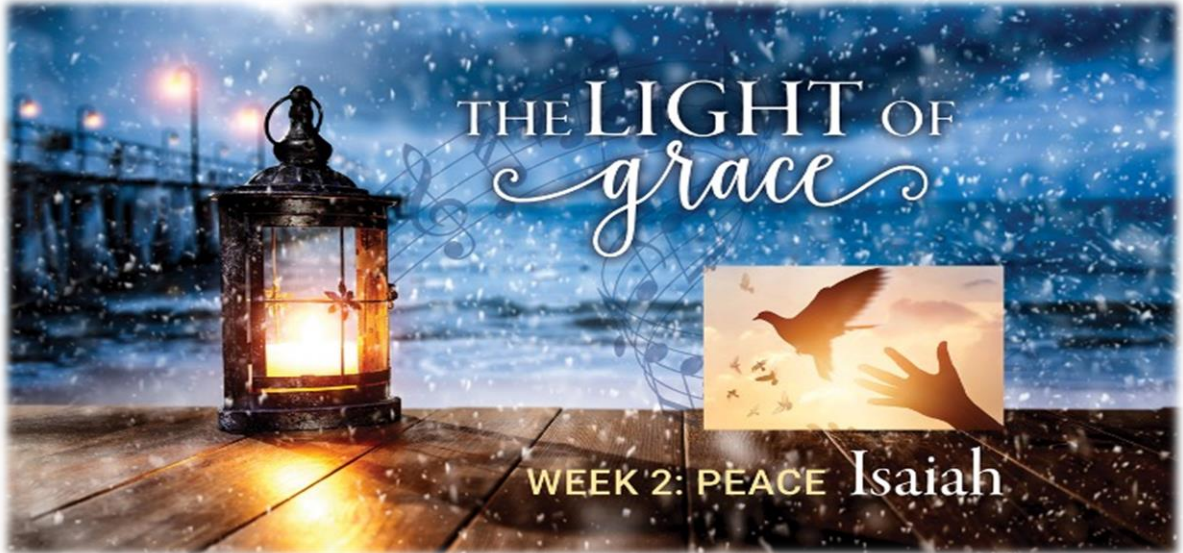


ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

December 6, 2023

12:00 p.m. & 7:00p.m.



THEME VERSE

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

AS WE GATHER

In this worship series for Advent, we celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the World who shines on us with his grace. Through Scripture, song and reflections, we are reminded that Jesus makes his grace known through the undeserved gifts of hope, peace, joy and love—gifts revealed in special ways in the lives of Zechariah, Isaiah, Elizabeth. This week we look at the life of Isaiah as he announces to an unsettled people that relief is coming soon through the Prince of Peace, the Son of God, the Light of Grace.

PRELUDE

“Fantasy on a Bavarian Carol”- John Behnke

PASTORAL WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“The Advent of our King” **LSB #331 V. 1-3, 6**

- 1 **The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.**
 - 2 **The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be, Himself a
servant’s form puts on To set His servants free.**
 - 3 **O Zion’s daughter, rise To meet your lowly King, Nor let your
faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.**
- 6Δ **All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.**

Stand

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Two blue candles are lit on the Advent wreath.

Pastor: 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.

People: **Lord, grant us your peace.**

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, grant us your peace.

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, grant us your peace.

CONFESSSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Amazing Grace” LSB 744 V.1-2, 4

- 1 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!**
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.**

4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease, Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, when the time was right, you fulfilled your promise and sent your Son to be our Savior. Even his holy name—Jesus—means that he came to save his people from their sins. Through faith in our crucified and risen Lord, we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life. We are buried with him in baptism and raised to walk with him in newness of life. Help us, in that new life, to walk in love as Jesus did and to serve you by serving others. When we grow faint and weary in our walk of faith, lift us up and renew our strength in the power of the Holy Spirit. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" **LSB 359 V.1-2**

- 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.**

Be seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-7

9 But 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.

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

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For 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.

⁷ 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.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 1:13-20

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC (7pm)

“It Is Well With My Soul” -Philip Bliss

Stand

VERSE

People: **Soon and very soon?**

GOSPEL READING

John 14:25-27

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

People: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED

People: 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Once He Came in Blessing” LSB #333 V. 1-2

**1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.**

**2 Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.**

SERMON

Peace to the Far and Near

Isaiah 57:19

OFFERTORY HYMN “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” LSB #347 V. 3

**3 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 a way; Let the
valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

Pastor: Lord Jesus, your birth was foretold by the prophet Isaiah. You would be called the Prince of Peace, and your kingdom of peace would endure forever. You were born among us, and by your death and resurrection, you have brought us peace. By God's grace, through faith in your name, we have peace with God, peace with one another and peace in our own lives. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

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

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the angels announced that through your birth there would be peace on earth. That peace was bought through the blood you shed on the cross. Your peace is not like the world's peace, which can so easily be lost. Your peace is found only in you. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

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

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are not experiencing peace as we celebrate your birth. Comfort those who are suffering from illness, loneliness, grief and other hardships. Encourage them through the promises of your holy Word. According to your gracious will, bring help and healing to them. Fill them with joy in knowing that you came to be their Savior and that you will never leave them. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

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

Pastor: Lord Jesus, lead us by your Spirit to serve people who are in need. Help us to walk in love as you did and to treat others with care, compassion and kindness. We pray that our words of witness for you will be supported by our acts of love. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

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

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the seasons of Advent and Christmas are celebrated as seasons of peace on earth. We pray that, by the power of your Spirit, that peace would extend into the new year and beyond. Let our lives reflect your love and

peace to everyone we meet as we share the Good News of salvation through faith in your name. Jesus, Prince of Peace.

People: **Fill our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.**

Pastor: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

BENEDICTION

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

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

Pastor: 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.

People: **The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

Pastor: Now may 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 † may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" LSB #332 V. 1-3

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

**2 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.**

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

**4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

POSTLUDE "Once in Royal David's City" -Arr. David Cherwien

SERVING US AT WORSHIP:

Officiant Preacher: Pastor Tim Anderson

Organist/Dir. of Music: Ellen Brown

Song Leader (7pm) Donna Evans

Special Music (7pm) The Savior's Praise Singers