

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C/G G7sus G7

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

C B Em B7/D# G7/D G7

With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow: To

C Caug F Fdim7 F D7 Fm(add6)

take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly!

C/E E7 F C F C/E Dm7 G7 G7sus C

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

PEACE

*...All glory be to God on high, and to
the earth be peace.*



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025
10:15 AM
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
In Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

*(Indicates the people should stand as they are able.)

*Welcome and Announcements

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

***Hymn "Be Still and Know" Bulletin Page 17**

In the darkness, a light shines.

In the waiting, life stirs.

As we remember that Christ is the "life-light" bringing life to the world and filling the darkness with light.

521 Let There Be Peace on Earth

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and C major. The lyrics are: "Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our cre - a - tor, we are fam - i - ly. Let us walk with each oth - er in per - feet har - mo - ny." The score includes various chords and melodic lines for each part.

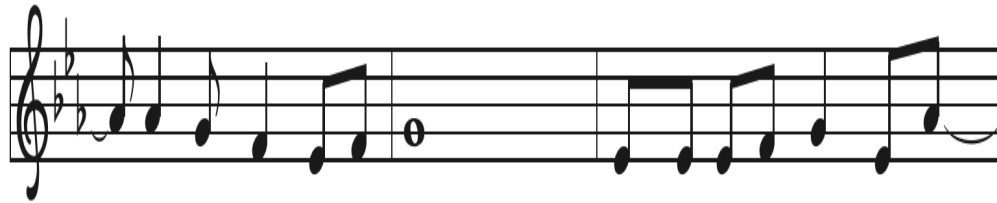
WORDS: Jill Jackson, alt.
MUSIC: Sy Miller; harm. Charles H. Webb
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WORLD PEACE
Irregular

Blessed Is the One



Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes



in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes



in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Text: Psalm 118:26

Music: BLESSED IS THE ONE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977

With each candle we light, we proclaim that the light of Christ is stronger than the shadows, and the life He brings is everlasting.

Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace. The light grows, and with it comes calm: the stillness of God's presence, the peace that passes all understanding. Christ comes to bring life where there is conflict, and light where there is fear.

ALL:

God of light, bring your peace to our world.

Quiet the storms within us,

And teach us to be bearers of your light and life to others.

Amen.

Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" ELW#282

Prayer

Life-light, as John the Baptist bore witness to your coming, help me to bear faithful witness to you in my daily life.

Make me a clear reflection of your love, I pray. In this Advent season, may my heart prepare room for you: the true light who gives life to all. Amen.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
✠ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

Hymn "Hark, the Glad Sound" ELW#239

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you

***Prayer of the Day**

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your
only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of
repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior**

Be Still and Know 10

1. Be still and know that I am
2. The Lord Al - migh - ty is our
3. The God of Ja - cob is our

God, be still and know that I am
God, the Lord Al - migh - ty is our
rock, the God of Ja - cob is our

God, be still and know that I am God.
God, the Lord Al - migh - ty is our God.
rock, the God of Ja - cob is our rock.

CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Sun., Dec. 7 | Council Meeting Community Christmas Concert Wilton Community Center | 11:15 AM 4:00 PM |
| Wed., Dec. 10 | Caroling | 5:30 PM |
| Thurs., Dec. 11 | Quilting | 9:00 AM |
| Sat., Dec. 13 | Live Nativity @ English Lutheran | 10:30 AM |
| Sun., Dec. 14 | Sunday School Worship (Baptism) | 9:00 AM 10:15 AM |
| Sun., Dec. 21 | Sunday School Worship Bishop Felix Malpica Council Meeting | 9:00 AM 10:15 AM 11:30 PM |
| Wed., Dec. 24 | Christmas Sing Worship | 6:00 PM 7:00 PM |
| Sun., Dec. 28 | Worship | 10:15 AM |

and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

A reading from Isaiah 11:1-10

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall
be glorious.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Christmas Concert– TODAY

We want to add our support for this event by providing cookies, brownies or other goodies to be served during the intermission. The concert is this afternoon, 4:00 PM at the Wilton Community Center.

Caroling—December 10

We'll gather at 5:30 PM, have a quick meal, and then head off to carol to members of St. Paul's as well as folks here in the Village or nearby. All are welcome to participate.

Quilting– December 11

Stop down at 9:00 on Thursday, December 11, and enjoy a couple hours of fellowship, while working on quilts which will be sent throughout the world by Lutheran World Relief. Let us not forget those in dire need of something as simple to us, as a blanket.

Live Nativity– December 13

We have reservations on Saturday, December 13, to attend the live nativity at English Lutheran Church in La Crosse. We added a couple extra slots to be safe. , please sign on the sheet in the narthex or let Nalani know. We will leave for La Crosse at 10:30 AM.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Linda, Jeremy Munson, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Gordy O'Rourke, Marilyn O'Rourke, Larry Arndt, Nick Evans, Jack Arndt, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon Fronk, Jeri Bauer Weger, Patty Von Haden, Ben Bender, Jeff Bruce, Pastor Bob Gerke, Brian, Jim Summerfield, Darlene Diekrager

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Allen Roscovious, Matthew Dutton

- ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon
shall be no more.
- ¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
- ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.
Amen and Amen.

SECOND READING

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

A reading from Romans 15:4-13

- ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and

that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation Sung to “What Child is This?”**

**What Word is this on printed page,
proclaimed and lived among us?
O living Christ, the nations rage,
What hope and truth will you bring us?
Peace, peace, is what we pray,
thy kingdom come among us.
Come, Lord, renew our hearts;
Your children, we are listening.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

welcome the stranger,

and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

May God who comes among us,

Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,

grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,

and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

**Hymn “Let There Be Peace On Earth” Bulletin Pages
19-20**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister:

Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Karla Richie;

Acolytes: Linus Arndt, Mia Anderson

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

“Lamb of God” Sung to “The First Noel”

Oh.. Lamb of God,
You take away
The sin of the world,
Have mercy, we pray

Oh.. Lamb of God,
you take away
the sin of the world,
have mercy, we pray

Oh..Lamb of God, Oh.. Lamb of God!
Give us your peace on earth today.

Distribution

*GOSPEL READING

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

The holy gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn **“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ELW #249**

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***PRAYERS (God of grace. Hear our prayer.)**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN**

*Hymn **“Blessed Is the One” Bulletin Page 18**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Words of Institution

***LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us: