

The Season During the Sundays after Christmas we continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior as we focus on *Promises Kept*

The Sunday Promises kept: we celebrate with joy how God fulfilled them all.

Opening Hymn

Peace Came to Earth CWS 707



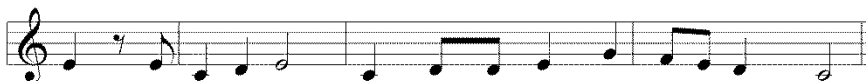
1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And  
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The  
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In  
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but  
wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but  
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but  
else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

*The picturesque language of this Jaroslav Vajda hymn vividly illustrates the weighty significance of God becoming man in Christ.*

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: PEACE CAME TO EARTH (10 10 10 88) Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952 © 2000 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Morrison Zion  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod



Our mission is to  
**Glorify God**  
as we

**Gather**  
around the Gospel  
to help people

**Grow**  
in the Gospel  
and

**Go**  
with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank  
God that you have  
joined us at worship  
today.

Restrooms are  
located in the  
basement. Hearing  
loop headphones and  
Large Print Hymnals  
are available from an  
usher.

If your children need  
to leave worship,  
please take them to  
the basement. A TV  
broadcasts the service  
in the basement.

Today we gather  
together in the  
presence of God. He is  
present among us in a  
special way through his  
Word and Sacrament.  
We acknowledge our  
sin and rejoice in the  
good news of  
forgiveness through  
the life and death of  
Christ. This is the focus  
of our worship.

---

## CONFESSION OF SINS

---

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

---

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

---

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### Oh, Taste and See



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

## Prayer of the Day

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*Be Seated*

---

## THE WORD

---

### First Lesson

### 2 Samuel 7:8-16

The Lord promises peace to David's kingdom of Israel and a descendant who will establish his throne for eternity. But this eternal throne named for David will be greater than that from which David ruled God's people. For the this ruler and throne will be established by the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

<sup>12</sup>When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.

<sup>15</sup>But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.” (NIV)



We have seen his glo - ry; he shines forth with truth and grace.

Praise the LORD from the heavens,  
praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels,  
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, all you shining stars.

**Refrain**

Praise the LORD from the earth,  
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,  
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,  
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,  
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,  
young men and maidens, old men and children.

**Refrain**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**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.**

**Refrain**

**Second Lesson**

**Colossians 1:13-20**

God had promised to establish a house and kingdom for David forever. Looking around the Ancient Near East at the beginning of the Christian era, it must certainly have seemed that God's promised to David had failed. There was no king in Israel; David's line had been cut off and his kingdom destroyed. But God keeps his promises, no matter how unlikely they may seem. Zechariah sang about the horn in the house of David. In Christ, David's Son, God kept every promise.

<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,

whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (NIV)

### **Verse of the Day**

M: Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia.  
(Psalm 98:3b)

*Stand*

### **Gospel**

**Luke 1:68-75**

Zechariah had learned to trust God's promises. After months of silence, he bursts forth to sing of God's promises kept. Blessed be the God of Israel who has come to redeem his people. The struggle with sin of spiritual Israel was over. Salvation has come just as the LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, had sworn by his own name. With the joy of salvation and the confidence of promises fulfilled, we fearlessly serve the LORD in righteousness.

- <sup>68</sup> "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.  
<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David  
<sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),  
<sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—  
<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear  
<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be Seated*

## Hymn of the Day

*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* CW 34



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our  
2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to  
3 Now through his Son doth shine      The Fa - ther's grace di -  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n - ly



voice;      He from whom joy stream - eth Poor  
thee.      Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O  
vine.      Death o'er us had reign - ed Through  
ground?      Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies;      Not so bright - ly  
pure and ho - ly Child;      Through thy grace and  
sin and van - i - ty;      He for us ob -  
all his saints u - nite,      Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.  
bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to thee!      Draw me un - to thee!  
May we praise him there!      May we praise him there!  
Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.  
Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.

## Sermon

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

*Stand*

## Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there 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.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**M:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **Benediction**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

*Be Seated*

# Hymn

## *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord CW 28:1-2*

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has  
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, What the  
tru - ly kept his word And at last to  
proph - ets' heart in - spired, What they longed for  
us did send Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
man - y a year Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

---

Service of the Word © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-725297