

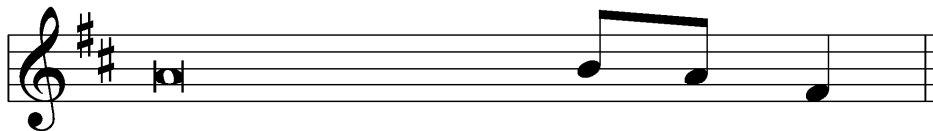
**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Hazen, ND
Pastor Peters
December 20, 2023**

Our Peace Rests on Him Alone

During one of the busiest and most stressful times of the year, we pause this third week of Advent and consider the source of real and abiding peace. This harmony with both God and others comes to us neither through our exertions of control nor through our best-laid plans, but through the reign of our Mighty God come near to us in Jesus, His one and only Son. The fulfillment of our everlasting Father's perfectly executed plan to save the world is revealed to us in the straw of the Bethlehem manger and then, some thirty-three years later, in the wood and nails of Calvary's cross. Amid the disorder of our chaotic lives, our Prince of Peace gives us what the world can never give. Let us center our hearts and minds on our Wonderful Counselor, who freely gives His everything so that our peace may rest on Him alone.

Opening Sentences

L O Lord, open my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

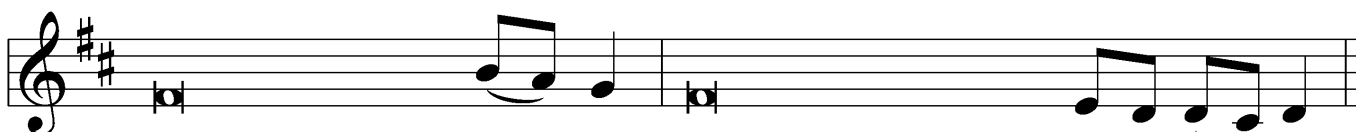
L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5

P Those who sow in tears

C shall reap with shouts of joy!

P When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

C we were like those who dream.

P Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

C and our tongue with shouts of joy;

P then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

C The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

P our fortunes, O LORD,

C like streams in the Negeb!

P Those who sow in tears

C shall reap with shouts of joy!

P He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

C shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

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.

P Those who sow in tears

C shall reap with shouts of joy!

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1–7

P A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

¹ 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 shined.

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.

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 O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 12:9–21

P A reading from Romans, the twelfth chapter.

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is

thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Matthew 10:34–39

P A reading from Matthew, the tenth chapter.

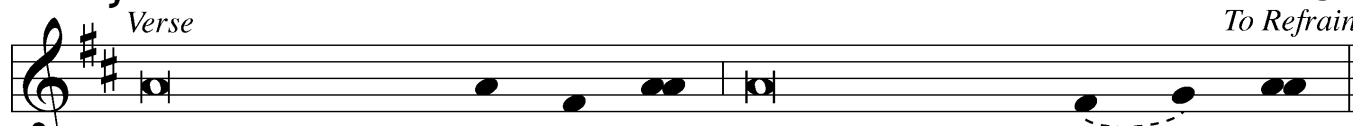
³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Advent

LSB 230



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a right-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.

Refrain

This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. 1, ref, 6-7*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom
6 O come, Thou Day-spring from on high, And cheer us
7 O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain

Re - jice! Re - jice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

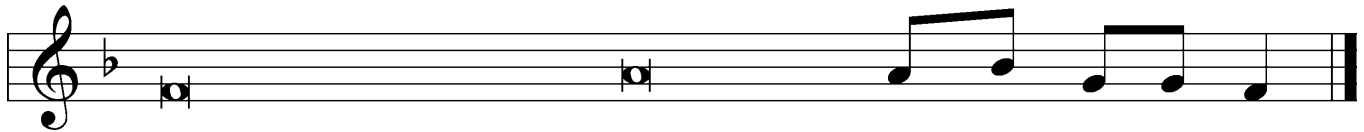
Sermon

Canticle

Antiphon

LSB 231

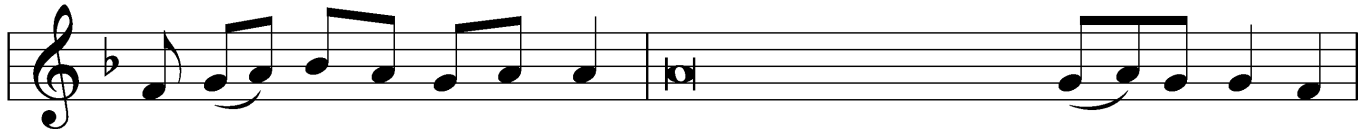
L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,



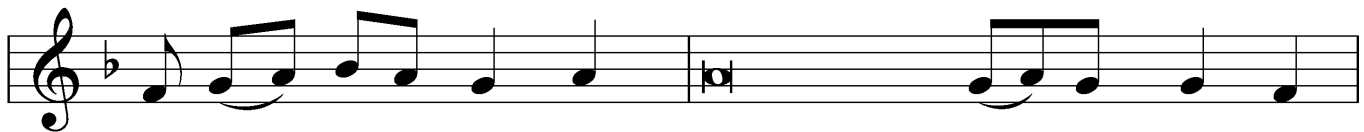
C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat

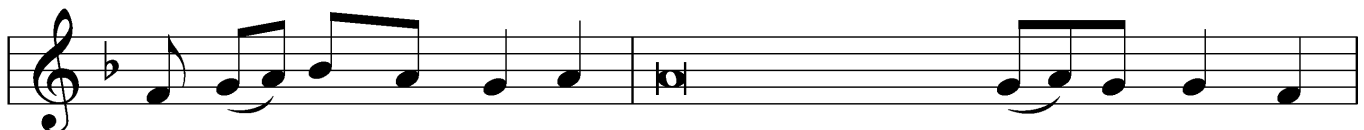
LSB 231



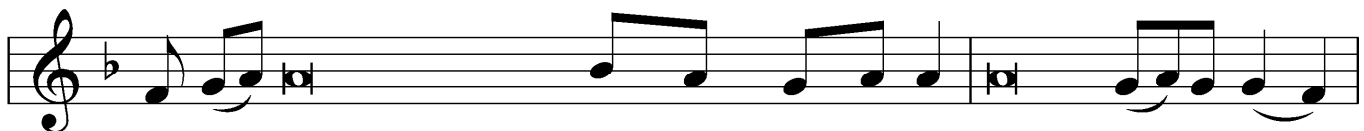
C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



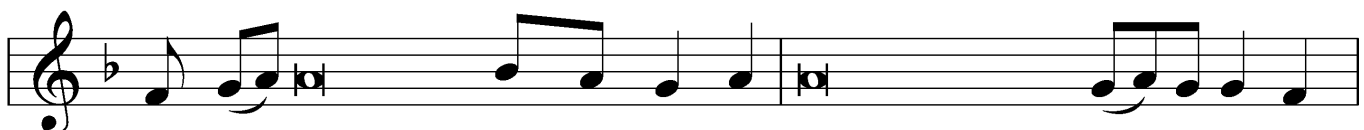
I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



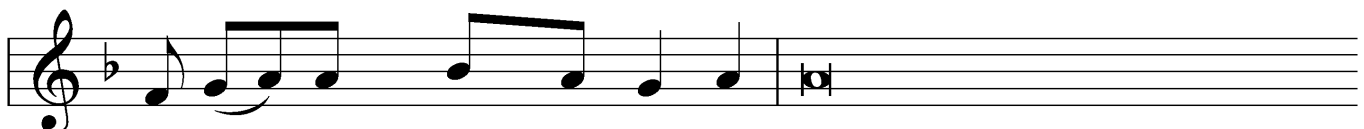
II For be - hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



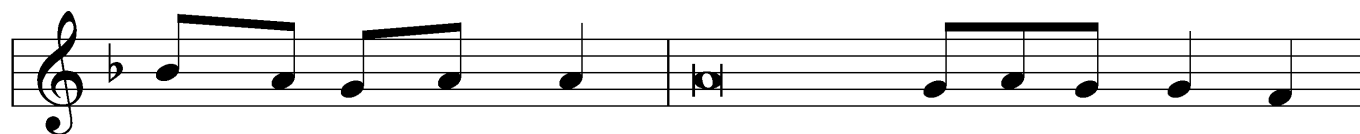
II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



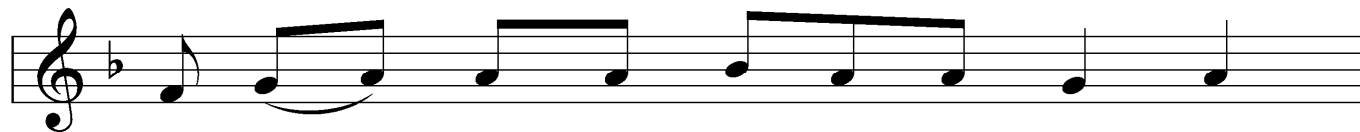
I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



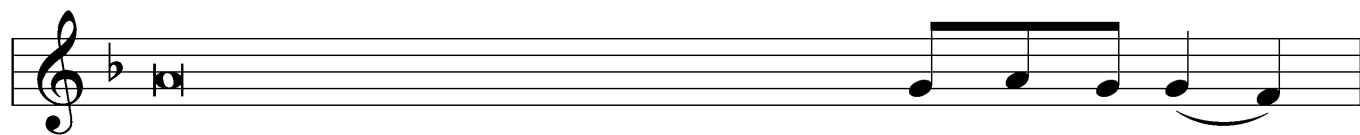
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



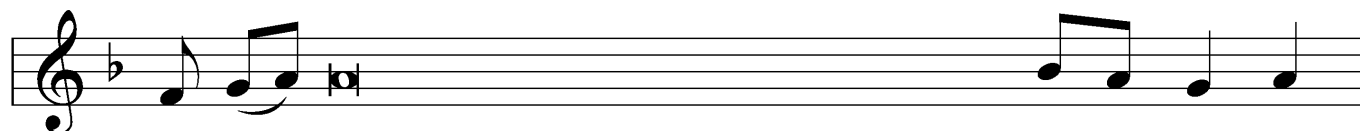
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



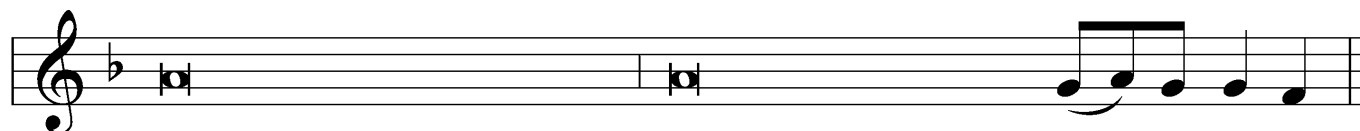
I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



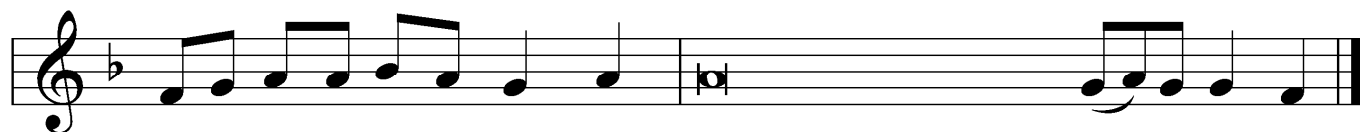
II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

Offering

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 233



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Collects

LSB 233

L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by the light of Your Holy Word, we may be drawn to Jesus and healed of our brokenness, rejoicing in Him who alone is our peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect

P O Lord, our dwelling place and our peace, You have compassion on our weakness. Put far from us all worry and fearfulness that, having confessed our sins and commending ourselves to Your gracious mercy, we may, when night shall come, commit ourselves, our work, and all we love into Your keeping, receiving from You the gift of quiet sleep; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Collect for Peace

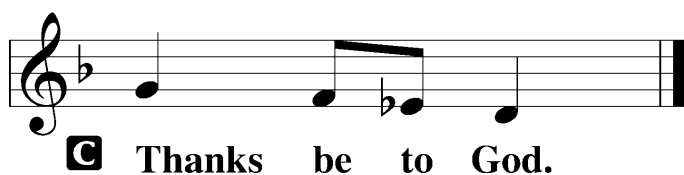
L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benedicamus

LSB 234

L Let us bless the Lord.



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



333 Once He Came in Blessing



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490-1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; (sts. 2-3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006
 Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480-1534
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