

**The Third Week of Advent  
Jesus, Our Peace**

**+ GATHERING +**

**OPENING DIALOGUE**

P: O King of Glory,

**C: We make our hearts ready for you to come in.**

P: Through the doors of our heart, though they are made of only the simplest wood,

**C: O King of Glory, we make our hearts ready for you to come in.**

P: We open these doors now, fully and completely, with all of our will and all of our strength. With all of our uncertainty and all of our weakness we pray,

**C: Come dwell among us and be our peace today.**

**GREETING**

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare a pathway for your Christ. By his coming speak peace to your people and turn our hearts toward you, that your saving grace and splendid glory may dwell in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

**SILENCE**

*A brief or extended period of silence is held.*

+ WORD +

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*After three candles are lit, the presider prays:*

P: Let us pray. God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us. God of hope, who is our refuge and strength, be the center, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

**C: Amen.**

PSALM 91 (spoken responsively, lector/**congregation**)

- <sup>1</sup>You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—  
<sup>2</sup>**you will say to the LORD, "My refuge | and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I | put my trust."**
- <sup>3</sup>For God will rescue you from the snare | of the hunter  
and from the | deadly plague.
- <sup>4</sup>**God's wings will cover you, and you will find ref- | uge beneath them;  
God's faithfulness will be your shield | and defense.**
- <sup>5</sup>You shall not fear any terror | in the night,  
nor the arrow that | flies by day;
- <sup>6</sup>**nor the plague that stalks | in the darkness,  
nor the sickness that lays | waste at noon.**
- <sup>7</sup>A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at | your right hand,  
but it will | not come near you.
- <sup>8</sup>**You will only have to look | with your eyes,  
and you will see the reward | of the wicked.**
- <sup>9</sup>Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your | habitation,
- <sup>10</sup>**no evil | will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**
- <sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge | over you,  
to guard you in | all your ways.
- <sup>12</sup>**Upon their hands they will | bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**
- <sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.
- <sup>14</sup>**I will deliver those who | cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

<sup>15</sup>They will call me, and I will | answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

<sup>16</sup>**With long life will I | satisfy them,  
and show them | my salvation.**

READING

John 1:1-5, 9-14

REFLECTION

“I Will Go There”

John Bell

**+ PRAYER +**

### INVITATION TO PRAYER

P: In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

*During this time of prayer, those assembled are invited to visit one or a few prayer stations. The stations are not sequential. To call all to return to their places, we will sing the following hymn five times.*

## 262

## Wait for the Lord

The musical score is written for a soprano and bass voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second system also has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

WAIT FOR THE LORD  
88

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. In your mercy receive our prayers, and by your power hasten the day when peace and justice kiss and steadfast love and faithfulness meet for the sake of the world you love.

**C: Amen.**

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

*Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete.*

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

SILENCE

BLESSING

*A blessing from Circle of Grace by Jan Richardson is shared, and all respond:*

**C: Amen.**

## **ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3800 East Third Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401  
Office Hours 9:00a.m.-4:30p.m.  
Phone: (812) 332-5252  
[stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org)