

For Peace:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give unto Thy servants that peace that the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that we, being defended by Thee from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Amen!

Hymn for The Nation . God Bless our Native Land #965

The Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen!**

Final Hymn The Day Thou Gavest #886

**The Season of Advent
Advent Midweek Vespers**
Wednesdays, 7:00 P.M.

Midweek Themes

2 December: The Struggle for Peace with Yourself
9 December: The Struggle for Peace with Your Neighbor
16 December: The Struggle for Peace with Your God

**THE ORDER OF VESPERS FOR
THE FIRST MIDWEEK OF ADVENT**

7:00 P.M.

2 December 2009

To Our Guests and Visitors

The members of Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church are glad to have you join with us as we gather around the proclaimed Word of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here it is that we find our source of forgiveness and life before God. It is our prayer that you also may rejoice in the precious message of the Gospel of our Lord: "But God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved!" [Ephesians 2.4-5]. **Please introduce yourself by name to our pastors as you leave today. Thank you!**

[Rise] **Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution**

As we prepare for the Word of God let us confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness. **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

THE OFFICE OF VESPERS FOR ADVENT

Opening Hymn Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #338

The Opening Sentences

O Lord, open my lips. **And my mouth will show forth Thy praise.**
Make haste, O God, to deliver me. **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

The Sentences for The First Week of Advent

Behold, your King cometh to you:

In Thee I trust, O my God.

Do not let me be put to shame:

Nor let my enemies triumph over me.

No one whose hope is in Thee will ever be put to shame:

But they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen!

Behold, you King comes to you: In Thee I trust, O my God.

+ **The Word of God for The People of God** +

The Invitatory for The Season of Advent

Give glory to the coming King:

Oh, come, let us worship Him!

The Spirit and the Church cry out:

Come, Lord Jesus!

All those who await His appearance pray:

Come, Lord Jesus!

The whole creation pleads:

Come, Lord Jesus!

In that day the mountains will drip new wine:

And the hills will flow with milk! Alleluia!

First Lesson

Isaiah 35.1-7

Response after the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

#334

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 4.1-15

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

The Advent of Our King

#331

[rise, st. 6]

Third Lesson

Romans 5.13-25

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Office Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come

#332

[rise, st. 8]

Sermon

“The Struggle for Peace with Yourself”

Advent Sermon Series: “The Struggle for Peace”

[We rise] **Offertory**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

#956

The Offering

+ **The Canticle of Praise of God’s People** +

Nunc Dimittis

[We rise]

[Simeon’s Song upon seeing the Christchild — Luke 2.29-32]

[Liturgist] 1: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,

[All] **2: According to Thy Word.**

[Women] 3: For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation

[All] **4: Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,**

[Men] 5: A light to lighten the Gentiles,

[All] **6: And the Glory of Thy people Israel.**

[All] **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!**

+ **The Prayers of The People of God** +

The Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. **Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord have mercy upon us.**

The Our Father

Our Father who art in heaven; Hallowed by 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!

The Salutation, The Collects of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit!

For The Season of Advent

Almighty God, heavenly Father, bestow on us Thy grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day when He will come again in His glorious Majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may then rise to the life immortal; through Him who livest and reignest with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.
Amen!

For The First Week of Advent

Stir up, we beseech Thee, Thy power, O Lord, and come, that by Thy protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and save us by Thy mighty deliverance; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.
Amen!