



# **Peace Lutheran Church**

**205 Tennessee Valley Road  
Mill Valley, California 94941  
415-388-2065**

**Bulletin – [www.bulletin.plcmarin.org](http://www.bulletin.plcmarin.org)**

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**Pastor Ricky Adams**

**Pastor's Office - (415) 381-7290**

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## **Mission Statement**

*To help all people know, believe and follow Jesus Christ*

**Sunday Worship      9:30 a.m.**

# Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church!

Whether you're a first time visitor or a long-time member, we welcome you to worship this morning! If you are visiting, we look forward to meeting you and hope you will join us again, soon. **We would appreciate your signing our guestbook before you leave.**

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## Some Helpful Information

**Please Feel Free To Sit At Anytime During The Worship Service:** During the worship services at Peace Lutheran there are many times when the people stand. Sometimes the standing can be quite lengthy. We do not want to place any undue burden on anyone worshipping with us. Therefore, please feel free to sit whenever you desire. Thank you and Christ's blessings.

**Restrooms** – A restroom is located to the right just as you leave the sanctuary and enter the entrance hall. Restrooms for men and women are also located at the top of the stairs in the Parish Hall. Go into the lounge, turn right and continue up the stairs.

**Fellowship and Refreshments** – Immediately following worship, coffee and other refreshments and treats are served in Luther Lounge (the lounge just off the entrance hall). Come relax with us and enjoy the company as we will certainly enjoy your company.

**Holy Communion** – At Peace Lutheran we celebrate Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Holy Communion is a very special meal for the children of God in Christ. All who have been baptized and believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and all those who hunger and thirst for Christ's forgiveness and God's strength for living, are invited to join in Holy Communion. **Grape juice** (instead of wine) is available in the individual glasses in the middle of the tray. The wine is red; the grape juice is white. Pastor blesses any of the children who are brought to the communion rail. Any adults who come to the rail and desire a blessing but not communion may cross their arms and pastor will bless them.

**Please join us again next week!**

# **Second Sunday In Advent**

## **December 10, 2017**

### **Introduction**

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of hope and peace. Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church today!

**Prayer Before Worship** - Lord of Darkness and of Light, come to us this day in the midst of our growing darkness bringing the light of hope to our lives. Keep our hearts and minds alert to your presence. Give peace to our stressed spirits. In this season of Advent, prepare us to greet the One who will lift our burdens and change our lives forever. AMEN. – Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters Website

### **Pre-Service Music**

### **Ringling Of The Bell**

### **Welcome**

### **Lighting Of The Advent Candle** (Please stand)

Pastor: The grass withers,  
**People: the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness  
People: **and illumine Your Church.**

(Candle is lit)

**Hymn - Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel** (Stanzas 3-4, ELW #257. Please remain standing)

3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

## Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.)

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from  
sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God  
and neighbor. - Silence for reflection and self-examination. - God of all time,

People: **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign  
among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor  
of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom  
to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure  
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Pastor: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ☩ Jesus Christ  
your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this  
good news!

People: **Amen.**

(We greet each other with the Peace of the Lord)

## Hymn – Children Of The Heavenly Father (LBW #474, please be seated)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Children of the heav'nly Father<br>safely in his bosom gather;<br>nestling bird nor star in heaven<br>such a refuge e'er was given.            | 2. God his own doth tend and nourish,<br>in his holy courts they flourish.<br>From all evil things he spares them,<br>in his mighty arms he bears them. |
| 3. Neither life nor death shall ever<br>from the Lord his children sever;<br>unto them his grace he showeth,<br>and their sorrows all he knoweth. | 4. Though he giveth or he taketh,<br>God his children ne'er forsaketh;<br>his the loving purpose solely<br>to preserve them pure and holy.              |

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958. Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## First Reading - Isaiah 40:1-11 (Please remain seated)

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

## Second Reading - 2 Peter 3:8-15a (Please remain seated)

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

## Gospel Acclamation (Please stand)

Pastor: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: **All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.** (Luke 3:4, 6)

## Gospel - Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their

sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## **Song - On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry** (LBW #36. Please be seated)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry<br>announces that the Lord is nigh;<br>awake and hearken, for he brings<br>glad tidings of the King of kings! | 2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;<br>make straight the way for God within,<br>and let us all our hearts prepare<br>for Christ to come and enter there.   |
| 3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,<br>our refuge and our great reward;<br>without your grace we waste away<br>like flow'rs that wither and decay.   | 4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,<br>and make us rise to fall no more;<br>oh, let your face upon us shine<br>and fill the world with love divine. |
| 5. All praise to you, eternal Son,<br>whose advent has our freedom won,<br>whom with the Father we adore,<br>and Holy Spirit, evermore.              |   |

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

## **Message**

The Voice Of One Crying Out In The Wilderness  
Mark 1:1-8

## **Confession of Faith - Nicene Creed** (Spoken together. Please stand)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under**

**Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN**

## **Prayer Of The Church** (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us peace. — Silent prayer - Lord of peace, during this season of Advent, prepare our hearts that we would be made ready to receive Your Son as He comes in His incarnation and birth, but also in His body and blood. Make us ever ready for His final coming on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer and grant us peace.**

**Pastor:** Lord of peace, You have called Your Church to bear witness to Christ's redeeming work. Grant that we boldly proclaim the Good News of the One who brings joy to the world through His life, death, and resurrection, that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer and grant us peace.**

**Pastor:** Lord of peace, You have instructed us to pray for workers in Your harvest field. Raise up faithful and loving teachers of Your Word so that Christ may be proclaimed near and far. Make us Your instruments to encourage and equip individuals for work in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer and grant us peace.**



Pastor: Lord of peace, we ask that You stretch forth Your almighty arm to protect the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our land. Support them, granting them courage and loyalty. Strengthen them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer and grant us peace.**

Pastor: Lord of peace, You are the creator and sustainer of all things. According to Your will, grant healing to those who suffer in body and mind. Look with favor upon Your servants, and if it is Your will, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept tribulation, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for them. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer and grant us peace.**

(Additional prayers

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer and grant us peace.)**

Pastor: Lord of peace, thank You for calling us to be Your people through Holy Baptism. Make us ready to receive Your Supper as we remember the One who is truly present in this Meal as He comes to us in Holy Communion. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer and grant us peace.**

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
**People: Amen.**

**Sharing The Gifts Of God** (Please be seated as the offerings are received)

**Offering Prayer** (Please remain seated)

Lay Minister: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.  
**People: Amen.**

## **Communion Hymn - Hark the Glad Sound** (Stanza 1, LBW #35, please stand)

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.

## **Communion Service** (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You kept Your promise to prepare Your way in the person of John the Baptizer, calling us to repentance, that we might greet our coming Savior with hearts that are forgiven and at peace. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **Communion Hymn - Hark the Glad Sound** (Stanza 2, LBW #35, please stand)

2. He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

**Pastor:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You sent Your Son to fulfill the words and promises of the prophets that the Messiah would come. In repentance and thanksgiving, we come before You

to receive the salvation that Christ won for us through His coming, life, death, and resurrection. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." ... In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ... As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People: 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.**

Pastor: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

## **Communion Hymn - Hark the Glad Sound** (Stanza 3, LBW #35, please stand)

3. He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

## **Distribution** (Please be seated)

Approach the altar at the usher's direction. Communion is received kneeling—the bread in your outstretched open hands, the wine in a small cup. Place empty cups in the tray carried by the acolyte or lay minister. If you wish only a blessing, just fold your hands together over your heart.

### **Prayer before Communion** (Prayed privately before going to the altar)

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

### **Prayer After Communion** (Prayed privately after returning to your seated)

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen.

## **Blessing** (Please stand)

## **Communion Hymn - Hark the Glad Sound** (Stanza 4, LBW #35, please stand)

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

## Prayer after Communion (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

## Benediction (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** The grass withers,

**People:** **the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:** **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn - What Child Is This (LBW #40, please remain standing)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,<br>on Mary's lap is sleeping?<br>Whom angels greet with anthems sweet<br>while shepherds watch are keeping?<br>This, this is Christ the king,<br>whom shepherds guard and angels sing;<br>haste, haste to bring him laud,<br>the babe, the son of Mary! | 2. Why lies he in such mean estate<br>where ox and ass are feeding?<br>Good Christian, fear; for sinners here<br>the silent Word is pleading.<br>Nails, spear shall pierce him through,<br>the cross be borne for me, for you;<br>hail, hail the Word made flesh,<br>the babe, the son of Mary! |
| 3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;<br>come, peasant, king, to own him.<br>The King of kings salvation brings;<br>let loving hearts enthrone him.<br>Raise, raise the song on high,<br>the virgin sings her lullaby;<br>joy, joy, for Christ is born,<br>the babe, the son of Mary!         |   |

## Announcements

# Serving The Lord With Gladness

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Ricky Adams</b>
<b>Organist:</b>	<b>Beth Huber</b>
<b>Lay Minister:</b>	<b>Bev Erbel</b>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	<b>Janice Hellman and Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	<b>Don and Beverly Erbel</b>
<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Keith and Jackie Stoneking</b>
<b>Counter:</b>	<b>Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Janet Reese</b>

## Activities This Week:

<b>Sunday – December 10</b>	9:30am	Service of the Word and Sacrament <b>Congregational Meeting</b> <b>Christmas Decorating</b>
	<b>After Worship</b> <b>After Meeting</b>	
<b>Tuesday – December 12</b>	9:30-12:30am <b>10:30</b> 4:15-5:45	Stage Door (PH) <b>Brown Bag</b> Kids Music Class(LL)
<b>Wednesday – December 13</b>	6pm <b>6:30</b>	Stage Door (PH) <b>Men's Bible Class (LL)</b>
<b>Thursday – December 14</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Fireside Celebration</b>
<b>Saturday – December 16</b>	8:30-9:30am 9:30a-12:30pm	Pilates (PH) Stage Door (PH)
<b>Sunday – December 17</b>	9:30am	Service of the Word

## **Announcements For December 10, 2017**

**Information About Peace Lutheran Church** - If you desire to know more about Peace Lutheran Church such as teachings; affiliations, membership or other questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Adams.

Office Phone – (415) 388-2065

Home Phone – (415) 388-7190

Email – [pastor@plcmarin.org](mailto:pastor@plcmarin.org)

**Flowers** – Flowers today are given to the glory of God.

**Refreshments** - will be served in Luther Lounge and surrounding areas following worship today. Guests and members stay and meet one another again or for the first time.

**Anniversaries** – Blessing to those celebrating a wedding anniversary this week:

**Tuesday - Charles Keine & Kathy Doyle**

**Saturday - Dave & Betty Erickson**

### **Important Dates In December**

**December 10** – Congregational Meeting and Sanctuary Decorating

**December 14** – Fireside Holiday Celebration

**December 24** – Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.

**Last Day - The Giving Tree** - This year we are supporting our friends and neighbors at Fireside.

**We are asking for:**

**32 ~ \$15 Walgreens Gift Cards**

**18 ~ \$15 Target Gift Cards**

**Monetary Donations**

***(Make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church, writing Fireside in the "For" section)***

**The last day to donate or bring gift cards: TODAY**

As you know, we have been partnering with Fireside for many years. They are all so appreciative of what we do for each of them.

Giving these low income seniors and families a gift at Christmas truly brightens their holiday season. For many, this is all they will receive.

Thank you for your generosity.

**Congregational Meeting-** Please note the annual congregational meeting for Peace Lutheran Church will be today immediately following worship.

**Christmas Decorating** – Join us today for Christmas decorating of the Sanctuary. It is a great time for fellowship and Dahlia's "Feuerzangebowle" (Fruity Hot Rum and Wine drink). Please bring a 'finger food' to share and a drink to share.

**Men's Bible Class** – I have scheduled the Men's Bible Class on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge. We continue our study on Mark, sharing the things going on in our lives and of course finger foods and drinks. Hope to see you there!

**Poinsettias** – I have placed a poinsettias sign up sheet in the entry way (Narthex). Please sign up for one to take home Christmas Eve.

**Facebook** - Like us on Facebook at Peace Lutheran Church Mill Valley or @peacelutheranmill

**Sunday Bulletins** - for Peace Lutheran church are available online for use during the worship service. The link is <http://bulletin.plcmarin.org>



## **Weekly Devotional Helps**

### **December 10 - December 16, 2017**

#### **Morning Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

#### **Evening Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

#### **Prayer For The Sick**

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Scripture Readings Through The Week**

#### **Monday – December 11**

Psalm 27  
Isaiah 26:7-15  
Acts 2:37-42

#### **Tuesday – December 12**

Psalm 27  
Isaiah 4:2-6  
Acts 11:1-18

#### **Wednesday – December 13**

Psalm 27  
Malachi 2:10-3:1  
Luke 1:5-17

#### **Thursday – December 14**

Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 2:1-5  
Philippians 3:7-11

**Friday – December 15**

Psalm 126

Habakkuk 3:2-6

Philippians 3:12-16

**Saturday – December 16**

Psalm 126

Habakkuk 3:13-19

Matthew 21:28-32

**Scripture Readings For Next Sunday****Third Sunday In Advent****Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11****Psalm 126****1 Thessalonians 5:16-24****John 1:6-8, 19-28****Commemorations**

**December 13 - Lucy, martyr, died 304:** Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

**December 14 - John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591:** John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

**December 16 - Las Posadas:** This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

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