

Peace Lutheran Church
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Pastor Ricky Adams



“For Nothing Will Be Impossible With God.”
Fourth Sunday Of Advent
December 20, 2020

Whoever you are...
Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...
YOU are WELCOME here!

We Gather In The Presence Of God

“For Nothing Will Be Impossible With God.”

Luke 1:26-38

We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It doesn't appear on any list of greatest novels or plays written by earthly authors. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But as we prepare to review the mystery of God—the Son of God becoming incarnate in our human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary—the greater mystery is that He, Jesus, looks over your shoulder now in the retelling and hearing of Christmas. The greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but also that you believe it. And believing brings about the best mystery of all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life, that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. The Gospel—the wisdom and mystery of God—is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ. Thank you for joining us in worship.

We Are Renewed In God's Grace

Invocation

Pastor: Only a few days remain before we celebrate our Savior's birth. Are you caught up in the festivities that this holiday season brings? Perhaps you're overwhelmed with heartbreak of present and past tragedies. Maybe you are harboring unforgiveness, empty wishes, or bitterness toward your family. What if we laid aside all the unwanted hustle and bustle, the burdens we are carrying, and the busyness of life at the feet of our Lord? What if for one moment we set aside just an hour to focus our attention on the Savior of the world, who was born in a manger as a babe, but fully God and human in one, who entered into this world to bridge a wide gap between us and God? I invite you to close your eyes, imagine the beautiful hope found in the God child's eyes, and tell Him that you trust Him and desire to worship Him in this moment, right now.

We focus on Jesus

Confession and Forgiveness - All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Pastor: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. - Silence is kept for reflection. - Loving and forgiving God,

All: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

Pastor: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Opening Song – A Great And Mighty Wonder

A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
the Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honor pure:
Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men.'

The Word becomes incarnate,
and yet remains on high;
and cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky:
Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men.'

Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the Infant born in Beth'lem,
the Saviour and the Lord:
Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men.'

Text: St. Germanus I; Translator: J. M. Neale



God Speaks Through His Word

First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

Pastor: ¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. ... This is God's Word

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

Pastor: ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. ... This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Message Song – Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly – 8787D

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly,
virgin mother, wise and mild.
Sing of God's own Son most holy,
who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest mother,
God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother,
takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,
in the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary
love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her,
though he went forth from her side,
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,
till on Calvary he died.

Glory be to God the Father;
glory be to God the Son;
glory be to God the Spirit;
glory to the Three in One.
From the heart of blessed Mary,
from all saints the song ascends,
and the church the strain reechoes
unto earth's remotest ends.

Text: Roland F. Palmer, 1891-1985



Message

"For Nothing Will Be Impossible With God."
Luke 1:26-38

We Bring Our Praises, Prayers And Gifts

Confession Of Faith - Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

The Prayers

Pastor: God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. - A brief silence. - Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for all our neighbors so that they would be comforted by the baby born in Bethlehem. Inspire their faith. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great**

Pastor: Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great**

Pastor: Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great**

Pastor: Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great**

Pastor: Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great**

Additional prayers:

Pastor: Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great**

Pastor: Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great**

Pastor: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The 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.

Benediction

Pastor: Don't leave this place picking up the same loads you carried in. Leave them with Jesus and go in His great peace.

People: **We leave our burdens with Jesus and pick up His peace. We trust in the God who fulfills! Amen.**

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song - Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (LBW #34. Please be seated)

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

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

Announcements

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

Email – office@plcmarin.org

Birthdays – Blessing to Marlene Halden celebrating her birthday on Monday and Shila Clement celebrating her birthday on Wednesday.

Christmas Eve Live Stream – We will have a live stream worship service on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to join us!

Christmas Eve Live Stream – Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86265155381?pwd=WVRYK0ZjVTNaUEZsZWdsWXRUcWdVQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 6515 5381

Passcode: 515635

Worship Services – There are three ways to worship at Peace Lutheran Church during this time of Covid.

Live Stream - Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73855305624?pwd=ZEZpQkZNbEx5VmtUYTBKUnlLQjJkZz09>

Meeting ID: 738 5530 5624

Passcode: plcmarin

Facebook users

www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranMill

(available beginning 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning)

Non-Facebook Users

www.plcmarin.org

Just go to the front page, scroll to the bottom, and click on the video. It is that easy!

Communion – After worship from 10:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. You may also call Pastor Adams to make an appointment.

Calendars – We are collecting Calendars for 2021 to give to people at the Fireside

Weekly Devotional Helps

December 20-26, 2020

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 21

Psalm 148
Isaiah 42:1-25
Revelation 9:1-12

Tuesday – December 22

Psalm 148
Isaiah 43:1-24
Revelation 9:13-10:11

Wednesday – December 23

Psalm 148
Isaiah 43:25-44:20
Revelation 11:1-19

Thursday – December 24

Psalm 148
Isaiah 44:21-45:13, 20-25
Revelation 12:1-17

Friday – December 25

Psalm 148
Isaiah 49:1-18
Matthew 1:1-17

Saturday – December 26

Psalm 148
Isaiah 49:22-26, 50:4-51:8, 12-16
Matthew 1:18-25

Scripture Readings For Next Sunday

First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 61:10--62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

Commemorations

December 20 - -Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552: Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

December 26 - Stephen, Deacon and Martyr: Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

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