



Peace Lutheran Church

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

Bulletin – www.bulletin.plcmarin.org

Website – www.plcmarin.org

E-mail – office@plcmarin.org

Pastor Ricky Adams

Church Office - (415) 388-2065

E-mail – pastor@plcmarin.org

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.**

+ + + + + + +

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!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

Introduction

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death. Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church today.

Prayer Before Worship - We come this morning, tired from rushing around, tired of trying to meet the demands and expectations of the season. Slow us down. Help us center our thoughts. Restore in us a childlike wonder, and a belief that dreams really do come true. We call on your name. Be with us and in us, Emmanuel. Amen. - Joanne Carlson Brown, Ministry Matters Website

Pre-Service Music (A time for reflection)

Ring of the Bell

Welcome

Opening Sentences (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21; Psalm 24: 3–4; Romans 1:3. Please stand)

Pastor: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
People: and shall call His name Immanuel.

Pastor: She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,
People: for He will save His people from their sins.

Pastor: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
People: He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

Pastor: Christ Jesus was descended from David according to the flesh
People: and declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Entrance Song - Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (LBW #34. Please remain standing)

- 1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

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

- 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*
- 3 Oh, come, strong 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*
- 4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
- 5 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*

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

Confession And Forgiveness (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Let us come before the living God in confession. - Silence is kept for reflection. - As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

People: **we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**


Pastor: Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: **Amen.**

(We greet one another with the Lord's peace)

Response - Holy Child Within The Manger (WOV #638. Please be seated)

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line having three numbered parts (1, 2, 3) and the subsequent lines having three corresponding parts. The lyrics are: 1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a - 2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your 3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry love for us was shown, when the im - age of your ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear. glo - ry wore an im - age like our own. stran - ger how you come to us to - day.



As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing, give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Music: JOYOUS LIGHT Marty Haugen. Text and Music ©1987 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. CCLI #209714

First Reading - Isaiah 7:10-16 (Please remain seated)

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Gradual (Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt. Please remain seated)

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;
People: **righteous and having salvation.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
People: **From the house of the Lord we bless You.**

Second Reading - Romans 1:1-7 (Please remain seated)

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse (Matthew 1:23a. Please stand)

Pastor: Alleluia. The virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
People: **and they shall name him Emmanuel. Alleluia.**

Gospel - Matthew 1:18-25 (Please remain standing)

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream

and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Theme Song - Now the Green Blade Rises (LBW #148. Please be seated)

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958. Text from *Oxford Book of Carols* © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved

Message

God With Us
Matthew 1:18-25

Confession Of Faith - Apostles Creed (Please stand and confess together)

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

Prayer Of The Church

(Matthew 1:19, 21; Romans 1:5; Psalm 24:1, 5–6; James 5:7. Please remain standing)

Pastor: As the time of Advent comes to an end, let us go to our heavenly Father on behalf of the Church around the world and all people in their various needs. — Silent prayer - “Call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” For people who have not heard a word of forgiveness from their society or circle of friends, that God would use the Church to bring them news of God’s mercy and grace, available from His Son, born in a stable, killed on a cross, and risen from the grave, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Pastor: Paul’s apostleship was to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of Christ’s name among all the nations. For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, that God would put into positions of authority and influence capable and faithful people who would work for order at home and peace with neighboring states, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Pastor: “The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof.” For those who tend God’s good earth, those who distribute and sell the fruits of the harvest, and those who manage wildlife preserves and wilderness expanses, that they be successful in their oversight of creation and give praise to the Creator, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Pastor: For people who are weighed down by illness, strife, or oppression, our friends and neighbors “who seek the face of the God of Jacob,” that God would bring healing, peace of body and mind, and freedom from discrimination, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Pastor: For the forgotten in prison and unseen among us, all whose treatment by society has given them cause to stop waiting for answers to prayer, that God would surround them with caring, devout family and friends, so that they in patient joy look forward as “the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,” let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Pastor: Joseph was a just man and unwilling to put Mary to shame. For those who have succumbed to the criticisms of their circle of acquaintances, the fallen morality of their society, and the consequences of their own mistakes, that God would open their eyes to the forgiveness He offers through Christ so that they lift up their heads to the gates through which our Savior walks, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Pastor: For the Church around the world, wherever it experiences active persecution or increasing indifference, that God would strengthen, guide, and protect laity and clergy alike and that it receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Additional prayers

Pastor: let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

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

Communion Hymn - Come, O Precious Ransom (LBW #24. Please remain seated)

- 1 Come, O precious Ransom, come,
only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world;
open are to you all portals.
Come, your beauty let us view;
anxiously we wait for you.
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,
glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and never leave,
though I am but poor and lowly.
What vast riches will be mine
when you are my guest divine!
- 3 My hosannas and my palms
graciously receive, I pray you;
evermore, as best I can,
homage I will gladly pay you,
and in faith I will embrace
life eternal by your grace.
- 4 Hail! Hosanna! David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let your kingdom, scepter, crown
bring us blessing and salvation;
that forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our king!

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.

✠ Sacrament ✠

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HYMN O Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Tune: LBW #34. Please remain standing)

O holy, holy, holy Lord, The God by heav'nly hosts adored,
Both heav'n and earth Your glory show. Hosanna sing we to the Lord.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: James Pierce. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg 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 in this Sacrament You remind us of Your having done everything needed for us in the past and Your promise to return for us on the Last Day. Hear us as we pray in Your name and as You have taught us:

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: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN O Christ, the Holy Lamb of God" (Tune: LBW #34. Please remain standing)

O Christ, the holy Lamb of God, Who takes away the whole world's sin,
Have mercy on us now, we pray, And grant Your heav'nly peace within.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: James Pierce. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 to the side. 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)

Hymn Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace (Tune: LBW #34. Please remain standing)

Lord, let Your servant go in peace, Your Word fulfilled within my sight.
Salvation comes for all to see. For Israel, glory; Gentiles, light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

All glory to the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, with them one,
As was in the beginning, now, And as the endless ages run.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: James Pierce. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Let us pray. ... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of
Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith
toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Benediction (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call
his name Immanuel.

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

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the Son
who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy
Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be
with you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Dismissal (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song - O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW #41. Please remain standing)

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Worship service adapted from Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Announcements

Recessional

Serving The Lord With Gladness

Pastor:	Pastor Ricky Adams
Pianist:	Janet Reese
Coffee Hour:	Nancy Adams
Altar Guild:	Vicki McGowan

Activities This Week:

Sunday – December 22	9:30 am	Service of the Word And Sacrament
Tuesday – December 24	9:30am -12: 30 pm 7:00 pm	Stage Door (PH) Christmas Eve Worship (S)
Wednesday – December 25	Merry Christmas 2:45-6:15 pm 6:00 pm	Patricia Miner (S) Stage Door (PH)
Saturday – December 21	8:30-9:30am 9:30a-12:30pm	Pilates (PH) Stage Door (PH)
Sunday – December 22	9:30 am	Service of the Word

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

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

Birthdays – Blessings to those celebrating birthdays this week.

Monday - Shila Clement

Friday - Betty Kerrigan

Christmas Eve Worship – Remember Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship on December 24 at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Poinsettias – Please feel free to bring poinsettias to decorate the altar area on Christmas Eve.

Servers – Every Sunday there are several people that help serve during the worship service and coffee hour. Peace Lutheran needs your help. We need people to prepare Coffee hour and serve during that time. We need Ushers. We need lay readers who read the second lesson during worship. Please consider these needs and sign up to serve in the way you choose. Thank you.

Flowers – If you would like to donate flowers for worship in memory of a person or observing a personal event, please contact pastor via email at pastor@plcmarin.org

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

Like us on Facebook at Peace Lutheran Church Mill Valley or @peacelutheranmill. Pastor Adams post a weekly blog on Facebook and Peace Lutheran's website at www.plcmarin.org

Weekly Devotional Helps

December 22 - December 28, 2019

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 23

Luke 1:46b-55
2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29
Galatians 3:6-14

Tuesday – December 24

Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Wednesday – December 25

Psalm 97
Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-14

Thursday – December 26

Psalm 148
Isaiah 52:7-10
Acts 7:59-8:8

Friday – December 27

Psalm 148

Proverbs 8:22-31

1 John 5:1-12

Saturday – December 28

Psalm 148

Isaiah 49:13-23

Matthew 18:1-14

Scripture Readings For Next Sunday**First Sunday After Christmas****Isaiah 63:7-9****Psalm 148****Hebrews 2:10-18****Matthew 2:13-23****Commemorations**

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.

December 27 - John, Apostle and Evangelist: The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009220.