



## **Peace Lutheran Church**

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

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

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

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**Pastor Ricky Adams**

**Church Office - (415) 388-2065**

**E-mail – [pastor@plcmarin.org](mailto: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.**

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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!**

# **Fourth Sunday In Advent**

## **December 23, 2018**

### **As We Gather**

Micah is one of the twelve minor prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures. He prophesies of the Savior's birthplace, Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." How fitting that the Bread of Life would be born in such a place. How fitting that He continues to feed us with His body and blood to this day. As we come to the Lord's Supper, we come to the house of bread. We come to Bethlehem or, rather, Bethlehem comes to us. Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church today!

**Prayer Before Worship** - Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Pre-Service Music** (A time of reflection)

**Ringling Of The Bell**

**Welcome**

**Opening Sentences** (Please stand)

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

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!  
People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Blessed is the fruit of Mary's womb!  
**People: He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord!**

Pastor: His flock shall dwell secure.  
**People: And He will be their peace.**

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!  
**People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

**Entrance Hymn** - 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 Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

## Confession And Forgiveness (Hebrews 10:10, please remain standing)

Pastor: In the season of Advent we prepare for Jesus to come. Sometimes in our preparations we lose sight of God's grace. Sometimes we are so desperate for God's approval we think we can earn His favor by doing more, by being better, or by scheming in just the right way. Despite God's unconditional love, we still try to earn our way into security and salvation. We turn to the Lord for forgiveness. - *Silence for reflection*. - Heavenly Father,

People: **we confess that we have not trusted Your Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We have questioned if we are truly forgiven. We have doubted the new life we now live. We have distrusted Your way of salvation. Restore us, O God. Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Pastor: God's ways are not our ways. Despite our continued failures and our inability to trust as we ought, Christ's death and resurrection for our forgiveness remains effective, and it always will. Hear these words of forgiveness for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

(We greet one another with the peace of the Lord)

# Hymn Of Praise - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(LBW Tune #551, please be seated)

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

## First Reading - Micah 5:2-5a (Please remain seated)

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times." <sup>3</sup> So the LORD will abandon his people to their enemies until the woman who is to give birth has her son. Then those Israelites who are in exile will be reunited with their own people. <sup>4</sup> When he comes, he will rule his people with the strength that comes from the LORD and with the majesty of the LORD God himself. His people will live in safety because people all over the earth will acknowledge his greatness, <sup>5</sup> and he will bring peace.

## **Second Reading - Hebrews 10:5-10** (Please remain seated)

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

<sup>5</sup> For this reason, when Christ was about to come into the world, he said to God: "You do not want sacrifices and offerings, but you have prepared a body for me. <sup>6</sup> You are not pleased with animals burned whole on the altar or with sacrifices to take away sins. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Here I am, to do your will, O God, just as it is written of me in the book of the Law.'" <sup>8</sup> First he said, "You neither want nor are you pleased with sacrifices and offerings or with animals burned on the altar and the sacrifices to take away sins." He said this even though all these sacrifices are offered according to the Law. <sup>9</sup> Then he said, "Here I am, O God, to do your will." So God does away with all the old sacrifices and puts the sacrifice of Christ in their place. <sup>10</sup> Because Jesus Christ did what God wanted him to do, we are all purified from sin by the offering that he made of his own body once and for all.

## **Gospel Acclamation** (Luke 1:38, Please stand)

**Pastor:** Alleluia! "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary;  
**People:** "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.  
**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel - Luke 1:46-55** (Please remain standing)

In Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

<sup>46</sup> Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord; <sup>47</sup> my soul is glad because of God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on all people will call me happy, <sup>49</sup> because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me. His name is holy; <sup>50</sup> from one generation to another he shows mercy to those who honor him. <sup>51</sup> He has stretched out his mighty arm and scattered the proud with all their plans. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands. <sup>54</sup> He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors, and has come to the help of his servant Israel. <sup>55</sup> He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all his descendants forever!"

## Response - O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW #41, please be seated)

- 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!



## Message

### The Great Reversal Luke 1:46-55

#### **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** (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. — silent prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, come to all of us who are in bondage to sin. Break our chains and release us from our enslavement, that we may serve You in peace and quietness. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

**People:** **and ransom captive Israel.**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, we live in a world where everyone does what is right in their own minds. Come to us with Your perfect wisdom, that we follow You and not our own selfish ways. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,

**People:** **who orders all things mightily.**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, come to those whose life is in chaos and provide order, structure, and discipline, that they live in peace and unity with their neighbors. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,

**People:** **who gave the Law on Sinai's height.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, evil remains an active voice in the world. Silence evil by Your mighty power, and proclaim liberty to those who are under evil's influence. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
**People: free us from Satan's tyranny.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, there are many who do not know You and Your salvation. Send missionaries, pastors, teachers, and anyone willing to share Your grace around the world, that more might believe in You and be saved by Your death and resurrection. O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
**People: and open wide our heav'nly home.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, so many in this world are lonely and longing for friendship and a place to belong. Send us to those people, that we befriend them and bring them to You. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
**People: and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again, that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
**People: bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.**

Additional prayer:

Pastor: Lord in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer**

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.  
**People: Amen.**

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

## Communion Hymn - Away In A Manger (ELW #278, please remain seated)

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.; Music: CRADLE SONG, William Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919.  
Arr. from Carols for Choirs 1. © Oxford University Press 1960. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-713958.

## ✠ 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, who comes to dwell with us as Emmanuel, God with us. By His presence and protection, we are saved from the schemes of the evil one. 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 - Holy, Holy, Holy King** (Tune: LBW #28. Please remain standing)

Holy, holy, holy King,  
Come and visit us, and bring  
Love throughout the heav'ns and earth,  
As we raise Hosanna's mirth.

Text: Andrew R. Jones. Copyright © 2018 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 only-begotten 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 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:**       The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:**       **Amen.**

**Hymn - O Lamb of God, You Take Away** (Tune: LBW #34, please remain standing)

O Lamb of God, You take away  
Each sin that leads our hearts astray.  
Have mercy on us, great High Priest,  
And lead us to Your endless feast.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
Your love is here, O Israel.

Text: Andrew R. Jones. Copyright © 2018 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 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

## **Blessing** (Please stand)

## **Post-Communion Canticle** (Stanza 4, LBW #39, please remain standing)

He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## **Prayer after Communion** (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

## **Blessing** (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

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

## **Dismissal** (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Closing Hymn – O Come, All Ye Faithful** (LBW #45, Please remain standing)

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

### *Refrain*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Continued on the next page

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain*
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

## **Announcements**

## **Recessional**

## **Serving The Lord With Gladness**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Ricky Adams</b>
<b>Organist:</b>	<b>Janet Reese</b>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	<b>Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	<b>Anahilda &amp; John Mosher</b>
<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Beverly Erbel &amp; Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Don &amp; Beverly Erbel</b>
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Jerry Locey</b>



## Activities This Week:

<b>Sunday – December 23</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Service of the Word And Sacrament</b>
<b>Monday – December 24</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b>
<b>Tuesday – December 25</b>	9:30-12: 30 pm	Stage Door (PH)
<b>Wednesday – December 26</b>	2:45 – 6:15 pm 6:00 pm	Patricia Miner (N) Stage Door (PH)
<b>Saturday – December 29</b>	8:30-9:30am 9:30a-12:30pm	Pilates (PH) Stage Door (PH)
<b>Sunday – December 30</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>

**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.

**Birthdays** – Christ's blessing to those celebrating birthdays this week.

**Today - Shila Clement**  
**Thursday - Betty Kerrigan**

**Christmas Eve Worship** - Remember Christmas Eve Worship on Monday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. We will sing the favorite Christmas Carols and sing "Silent Night, Holy Night"

**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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/peacelutheranmill)

# **Weekly Devotional Helps**

## **December 23 – December 29, 2018**

### **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 24**

Psalm 96  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Titus 2:11-14

### **Tuesday – December 25**

Psalm 97  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Titus 3:4-7

### **Wednesday – December 26**

Psalm 148  
2 Chronicles 24:17-24  
Acts 6:1-7, 7:51-60

### **Thursday – December 27**

Psalm 148  
Proverbs 8:32-36  
John 21:19b-24

**Friday – December 28**

Psalm 148

Isaiah 54:1-13

Revelation 21:1-7

**Saturday – December 29**

Psalm 148

1 Chronicles 28:1-10

1 Corinthians 3:10-17

**Scripture Readings For Next Sunday****Sunday After Christmas****1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26****Psalm 148****Colossians 3:12-17****Luke 2:41-52****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.

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