



# **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!**

# **Fourth Sunday In Advent**

## **December 24, 2017**

### **Introduction**

What a letdown when people break their promises! A father tells his ten-year-old son, "I know I promised to be at your soccer game, but something has come up."

Maybe we have been a victim of a broken promise like this, or perhaps we've been the one who's broken a promise. In today's Gospel, however, we see a promise kept. The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive and bear a Son. This pledge to Mary is part of the ongoing fulfillment of God's promises. When we see this promise kept in the coming of Jesus, we have the assurance that we can always trust God that He acts according to His Word. Our heavenly Father never breaks His promises! Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church!

**Prayer Before Worship** - In the rush of preparation for holiday celebration, we come to this place to be fed by God. We need the peace, hope, love and joy that this season represents. We need to listen again with wonder at the magnificent words of Mary as she proclaims her faithful participation in God's most miraculous gift. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to be fed and then to be those who will share with others as you have shared with us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN. — Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters Website

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

**Ringling Of The Bell**

**Welcome**

## Lighting Of The Advent Candle (Please stand)

Pastor: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;  
People: **with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness, to all generations.**

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)

## Song - Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 7-8, ELW #257. Please remain standing)

7. O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. <i>Refrain</i>	8. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. <i>Refrain</i>
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### *Refrain*

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

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

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: We are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar. Let us confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**People:**      **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**Pastor:**      “Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!” Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:**      **Amen.**

(We share the peace of the Lord with each other)

## **Song - The Advent of Our God** (Tune: LBW #368. Please be seated)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. The advent of our God<br>shall be our theme for prayer;<br>come, let us meet him on the road<br>and place for him prepare.      | 2. The everlasting Son<br>incarnate stoops to be,<br>himself the servant's form puts on<br>to set his people free.               |
| 3. Come, Zion's daughter, rise<br>to meet your lowly king,<br>nor let your faithless heart despise<br>the peace he comes to bring. | 4. As judge, on clouds of light,<br>he soon will come again,<br>and all his scattered saints unite<br>with him on high to reign. |
| 5. Before the dawning day<br>let sin be put to flight;<br>no longer let the law hold sway,<br>but walk in freedom's light.         | 6. All glory to the Son,<br>who comes to set us free,<br>with Father, Spirit, ever one<br>through all eternity.                  |

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.

## **First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16** (Please be seated)

Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord 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, the Lord's anointed.

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the 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.” <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to

the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.” <sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>Wherever 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?” <sup>8</sup>Now 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; <sup>9</sup>and 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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, <sup>11</sup>from 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. ... <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

## **Second Reading - Romans 16:25-27** (Please remain seated)

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

## **Verse** (Please stand)

Pastor: Alleluia. Here I am, the servant of the Lord;

**People: let it be with me according to your word. Alleluia.** (Luke 1:38)

## **Gospel - Luke 1:26-38, 46-55** (Please remain standing)

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little known places (Nazareth). 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 his gospel.

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."<sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He 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. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The 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. <sup>36</sup> And 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. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then 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. ... <sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

## Song – My Soul Proclaims Your Mercy Lord (ELW #251, please be seated)

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat. Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune. Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

## Message

God Has Kept His Promise  
Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

## Solo - "The Birthday of a King".

Soloist – Nancy Adams

Words and music are by William Harold Neidlinger.



## **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 stand)

**Pastor:** Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us love. — Silent prayer - Lord of love, 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 love.**

**Pastor:** Lord of love, 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 love.**

**Pastor:** Lord of love, 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 love.**

Pastor: Lord of love, 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 love.**

Pastor: Lord of love, 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 love.**

Pastor: Lord of love, 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 love.**

Additional prayers

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

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

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)

**Song - Child In The Manger** (Tune: LBW #409, please remain seated)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Child in the manger, infant of Mary;<br>outcast and stranger, Lord of all;<br>Child who inherits all our transgressions,<br>all our demerits on Him fall. | 2. Once the most holy Child of salvation<br>gently and lowly lived below;<br>now, as our glorious mighty Redeemer,<br>see Him victorious o'er each foe. |
|--|---|

3. Prophets foretold Him, infant of wonder;  
angels behold Him on His throne;  
worthy our Savior of all our praises;  
happy forever are His own.

Words: Mary MacDonald; tr. Lachlan Macbean. Music: BUNESSAN. Traditional Gaelic Melody.

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

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 fulfilled Your promise of a Savior by sending Your Son to be David's greater Son, who rules and reigns over all things for ever and ever. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### **Song - Hark the Glad Sound** (Stanzas 2, 3 LBW #35, please remain standing)

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

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.

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.

**Song – It Came upon the Midnight Clear** (Stanza 3, LBW #34, please remain standing)

And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow;  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing.

Text: Edmund Sears

## **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)

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

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

## **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. ... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that Your promises have been fulfilled among us today. Give us joy in knowing that the same One who became flesh in the Virgin's womb still comes to us today in His body and blood at this altar; 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: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

People: **with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness, to all generations.**

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 Song – Away In A Manger (ELW #278, please remain standing)

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.

## Announcements

# Serving The Lord With Gladness

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Ricky Adams</b>
<b>Organist:</b>	<b>Janet Reese</b>
<b>Lay Minister:</b>	<b>Rick Kinney</b>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	<b>Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	<b>Nancy Adams</b>
<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Counter:</b>	<b>Don and Beverly Erbel</b>
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Cynthia Smith</b>

## Activities This Week:

<b>Sunday – December 24</b>	9:30am	Service of the Word and Sacrament
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Candlelight Worship</b>
<b>Tuesday – December 26</b>	9:30-12:30am	Stage Door (PH)
<b>Wednesday – December 27</b>	6pm	Stage Door (PH)
<b>Saturday – December 30</b>	8:30-9:30am	Pilates (PH)
	9:30a-12:30pm	Stage Door (PH)
<b>Sunday – December 31</b>	9:30am	Service of the Word

## **Announcements For December 24, 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.

**Birthdays** – Blessing to those celebrating birthdays this week:

**Tuesday - Jennifer Richards**

**Wednesday - Betty Kerrigan**

**Sunday - Sheri Maier**

**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 24 - December 30, 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 25**

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

### **Tuesday – December 26**

Psalm 148  
Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15  
Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-60

### **Wednesday – December 27**

Psalm 148  
Exodus 33:18-23  
1 John 1:1-9

### **Thursday – December 28**

Psalm 148  
Jeremiah 31:15-17  
Matthew 2:13-18

**Friday – December 29**

Psalm 148

Isaiah 49:5-15

Matthew 12:46-50

**Saturday – December 30**

Psalm 148

Proverbs 9:1-12

2 Peter 3:8-13

**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 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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