

Peace Lutheran Church
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“When The Fullness Of Time Had Come”
First Sunday After Christmas Worship
December 27, 2020

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

We Gather In The Presence Of God

“When The Fullness Of Time Had Come”

Galatians 4:4-7

The Epistle for the First Sunday after Christmas brings a one-sentence summary of the Christmas message as Paul writes it to the Christians of Galatia. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4). God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth, this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. In the days after Christmas, we have the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Christmas message. We have received the greatest of all gifts. Through Jesus Christ, we are heirs of God and have an eternal inheritance! Thank you for joining us in worship.

Entrance – Galatians 4:4-7

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

People: **in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.**

Pastor: And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

People: **So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.**

Opening Song – O Come, All Ye Faithful

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing:
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord!

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

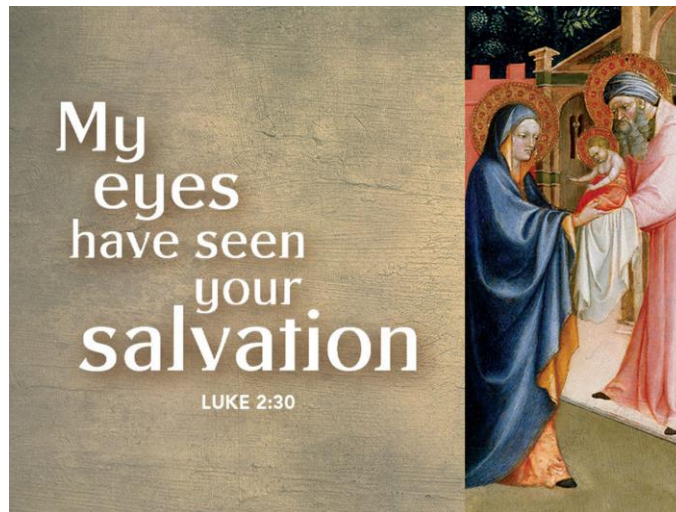


Image: *The Presentation in the Temple* by Alvaro Pirez (gold and tempera on wood, c. 1430).
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God Speaks Through His Word

First Reading - Isaiah 61:10--62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

Pastor: ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ... ^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation

like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ... This is God's Word

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

Pastor: ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. ... This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Song – Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4



Message

“When The Fullness Of Time Had Come”
Galatians 4:4-7

We Bring Our Praises, Prayers And Gifts

Affirmation Of Faith - The Third Article Of The Apostles' Creed

Pastor: Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we can call God our “Abba”—our Father. The Spirit directs our praying and intercedes for us. Today we confess the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding the work of the Holy Spirit and also speak the words from Luther’s Small Catechism regarding the work of the Spirit through the Church, of which each of us is a special part.

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. ... In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. ... In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. ... On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. ... This is most certainly true.**

The Prayers

Pastor: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. - A brief silence. - Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Additional prayers:

Pastor: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great

Pastor: Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

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: As this time comes to a close, let us thank the Lord for His love, His grace, and His mercy. Let us look ahead with much hope, not in ourselves, but in God!

People: Our hope is in the Lord Almighty! We trust in His perfect timing.

Pastor: May you go forward into the new year with a heart full of trust in the Lord. May You see His hand working in Your life and in the lives around You. May you have a heart full of worship and humility desiring the presence of the Lord.

People: Amen!

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song – Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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

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Birthday blessing to Betty Kerrigan celebrating today.

Worship Service Through January – Below are links to Worship services at our neighboring congregations for the Sunday in January

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Terra Linda:

Worship: www.facebook.com/lcsr

Website: <http://resurrectionlutheransanrafael.org/>

Service is live at 9:30 a.m. and available at the website afterward

Trinity Lutheran Church, San Rafael

Worship: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TrinitySanRafael/playlists>

Here is our main page on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TrinitySanRafael/featured>

Facebook page (used for info and youtube links, no live streams of any kind)

<https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Lutheran-Church-106159762775327>

Website: <http://trinitysanrafael.org/>

Question? – Contact Sebastian Stein at s@bersfo.com

Weekly Devotional Helps December 27-January 2, 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 28

Psalm 147:12-20
Isaiah 52:13-54:10
Matthew 2:13-23

Tuesday – December 29

Psalm 147:12-20
Isaiah 55:1-13
Luke 1:1-25

Wednesday – December 30

Psalm 147:12-20
Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21
Luke 1:26-38

Thursday – December 31

Psalm 147:12-20
Isaiah 60:1-22
Luke 1:39-56

Friday – January 1

Psalm 147:12-20
Isaiah 61:1-11
Luke 1:57-80

Saturday – January 2

Psalm 147:12-20
Isaiah 62:1-12
Luke 2:1-20

Scripture Readings For Next Sunday

Second Sunday After Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

Commemorations

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.

January 1 - Name of Jesus: By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

January 2 - Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872: A nineteenth-century German Lutheran pastor, Loehe worked to enliven the church with the eucharist at its center, from which would flow evangelism and social ministry. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and the Ukraine.