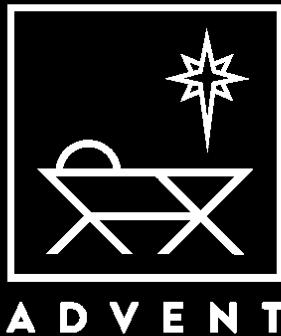


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Pastor Ricky Adams



December 6, 2020
Second Sunday In Advent
In Medias Res

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

We Gather In The Presence Of God

In Medias Res

Mark 1:1-8

This year, the holy evangelist St. Mark greets us to lead us through a new Church Year. He does not, however, greet us as we might expect. For one thing, he seems to have forgotten all about Christmas! At least Matthew and Luke tell of Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger and of angels and shepherds.

But Mark? While Christmas is the earthly “beginning” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this preacher means that his entire Gospel, the whole biblical story, is but “the beginning of the Gospel.” It is as if he means to say that the Baptist’s call to repentance comes to us *In Medias Res*, that is, in the middle of everything else, in the middle of the biblical story and in the middle of our lives and activities, right now. He is saying, “Stop what you’re doing. Repent again and welcome the Greater One, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The Christian faith and life is one of continual repentance and faith. Watch and listen as our Lord comes to us again, now, by His Spirit in His Word and Sacraments. Thank you for joining in worship.

Invocation and Psalm (Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13. Please stand)

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

People: **You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

People: **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

People: **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

Pastor: The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

People: **Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.**

Opening Song – Hark, the Glad Sound! (LBW #35. Please be seated)

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

God Speaks Through His Word

First Reading - Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

Pastor: ¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a

plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. ... This is God’s Word

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Mark 1:1-8 (Please remain seated)

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus’ birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Pastor: ¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” ... This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Song – Savior of the Nations, Come (ELW #263. Please remain seated)

Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Message

In Medias Res
Mark 1:1-8

We Bring Our Praises, Prayers And Gifts

Affirmation of Faith (Please stand)

Pastor: The Holy Trinity is One in power, one in might. We praise the Lord for His good work!

People: **Our Father in Heaven is the Promise Keeper. He keeps His covenants with His people and is true to His Word. He promised us a Savior and sent His begotten Son to be born as a babe, die as a man, and resurrect as our coming King. ... Jesus Christ fulfilled His promise to redeem and restore all that had been lost and broken. He bridged the gap between humanity and God, dying on a cross as the innocent Lamb. His resurrection shook the heads of the unbelievers and brought many to repentance. He is the Good News Gospel. ... The Promised Holy Spirit came and resides in all believers. He seals our salvation and**

empowers believers everywhere to carry the torch of the Gospel into the unknown and barren wilderness to reach the lost. He will continue to produce fruit in us until the Lord returns again. ... Holy Trinity, You are one. We believe in You. Amen.

The Prayers (Please remain standing)

Pastor: God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. - A brief silence.
- Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season.

Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Additional Prayers

Pastor: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

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

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Please remain standing)

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 (Please remain standing)

Pastor: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Dismissal (Please remain standing)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song - It Came upon the Midnight Clear (LBW 54. Please remain standing)

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

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
Home Phone – (415) 388-7190
Email – pastor@plcmarin.org

Birthday Blessings to Isaiah Clark-Hexter on Monday

Anniversary Blessings to John & Ana Hilda Mosher on Wednesday and to Charles Keine & Kathy Doyle on Saturday.

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

Worship at the Church Building – Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Live Stream - Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73855305624?pwd=ZEZpQkZNBEx5VmtUYTBKUnlLQjJkZz09>

Meeting ID: 738 5530 5624

Passcode: plcmarin

Facebook users

www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranMill

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

Non-Facebook Users

www.plcmarin.org

Just go to the front page, scroll to the bottom, and click on the video.

It is that easy!

Communion – You may call Pastor Adams if you desire to set up an appointment for communion. His number is 510-909-6798.

Calendars – Calendars for 2021 are being collected for Fireside. Please feel free to place them in the basket in the lounge.

Congregational Meeting – Peace Lutheran's annual congregational meeting will be today after the worship service.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

AS OF December 4, 2020, MARIN COUNTY IS STILL IN THE RED TIER WHICH MEANS WORSHIP SERVICES ARE ALLOWED AT 25% CAPACITY. HOWEVER, IF MARIN COUNTY MOVES TO THE PRUPLE TIER, INSIDE WORSHIP WILL BE SUSPENDED. WATCH FOR FURTHER UPDATES

Weekly Devotional Helps

December 6 – December 12, 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 7

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Isaiah 6:1-7:9
1 Peter 2:13-25

Tuesday – December 8

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Isaiah 7:10-8:8
1 Peter 3:1-22

Wednesday – December 9

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Isaiah 8:9-9:7
1 Peter 4:1-19

Thursday – December 10

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Isaiah 9:8-10:11
1 Peter 5:1-14

Friday – December 11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Isaiah 10:12-27a, 33-34

2 Peter 1:1-21

Saturday – December 12

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Isaiah 11:1-12:6

2 Peter 2:1-22

Scripture Readings For Next Sunday**Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

Commemorations

December 6 - Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342: Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

December 7 - Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397: While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

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