



# **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!**

# **The Baptism Of Our Lord**

## **January 13, 2019**

### **As We Gather**

Have you ever thought about how powerful fear and worry are in our lives? Fear takes hold. It ties us in knots and refuses to let us go. On our own, we're powerless to undo these "fear knots." Only Jesus has the power to release us from their captivity. "Fear not," He says to His redeemed people! "You are Mine," He refreshingly reminds us. Our worship on this Baptism of Our Lord Sunday brings us with Jesus to the baptismal waters, enabling us to hear the living voice of our God as He washes us clean and makes us His own. Fear may take its hold for a moment, but Jesus' hold is eternal. "Fear knots" may have their day. "Fear not" are saving words forever. Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church today!

**Prayer Before Worship** - Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of Darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world. Amen. — Nancy C. Townley, [Ministry Matters Website](#)

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

**Ringling Of The Bell**

**Welcome**

**Confession And Forgiveness**

(Please stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism)

**Pastor:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

**People:** Amen.

Pastor: Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin. - Silence is kept for reflection. - Mighty and loving God,

**All: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

**People: Amen.**

**Entrance Hymn - Dearest Jesus, at Your Word** (LBW #248, please remain standing)

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word  
we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you  
as the promises here given  
draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
till your Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living  
come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,  
Light of light from God proceeding,  
Jesus, send your blessed light;  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
that our prayers and songs may please you,  
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
praise to you and adoration!  
Grant us what we need the most:  
your blest gospel's consolation,  
while we here on earth await you,  
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, adapt.

## **Psalm Of The Day – Psalm 29** (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**People:** **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

**Pastor:** The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

**People:** **the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.**

**Pastor:** The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

**People:** **The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

**Pastor:** He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**People:** **The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.**

**Pastor:** The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

**People:** **the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.**

**Pastor:** The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**People:** **The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in His temple all cry, "Glory!"**

Pastor: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

People: **May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

People: **the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.**

(We share the peace of the Lord)

## Hymn Of Response – We Are Baptized In Christ Jesus (ELW #451, please be seated)



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;  
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,  
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,

that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;

And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,  
God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;  
as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain

we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.  
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937; Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker. Text and Music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-713958.

## First Reading - Isaiah 43:1-7 (Please be seated)

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

Israel, the LORD who created you says, "Do not be afraid—I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you. <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the holy God of Israel, who saves you. I will give up Egypt to set you free; I will give up Ethiopia and Seba. <sup>4</sup> I will give up whole nations to save your life, because you are precious to me and because I love you and give you honor. <sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid—I am with you! "From the distant east and the farthest west I will bring your people home. <sup>6</sup> I will tell the north to let them go and the south not to hold them back. Let my people return from distant lands, from every part of the world. <sup>7</sup> They are my own people, and I created them to bring me glory."

## Gradual (Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8. Please remain seated)

**Pastor:** Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!

**People:** **For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

**Pastor:** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

**People:** **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

## Second Reading - Acts 8:14-17 (Please remain seated)

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

<sup>14</sup> The apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had received the word of God, so they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> When they arrived, they prayed for the believers that they might receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> For the Holy Spirit had not yet come down on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

## **Verse** (Matthew 3:17. Please stand)

Pastor: Alleluia! Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son,  
People: **with whom I am pleased.” Alleluia!**

## **Gospel - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22** (Please remain standing)

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God’s beloved Son.

<sup>15</sup> People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> So John said to all of them, “I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> He has his winnowing shovel with him, to thresh out all the grain and gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out.” . . . <sup>21</sup> After all the people had been baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit came down upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you.”

## **Hymn Of The Day - When Jesus Came to Jordan** (Tune: LBW #231, please be seated)

- 1 When Jesus came to Jordan  
to be baptized by John,  
he did not come for pardon  
but as the Sinless One.  
He came to share repentance  
with all who mourn their sins,  
to speak the vital sentence  
with which good news begins.



- 2 He came to share temptation,  
our utmost woe and loss,  
for us and our salvation  
to die upon the cross.  
So when the dove descended  
on him, the Son of Man,  
the hidden years had ended,  
the age of grace began.
- 3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us  
to keep the vows we make;  
this very day invade us,  
and ev'ry bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction,  
the gift we covet most:  
to share the resurrection  
that leads to Pentecost.

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## Message

A New Exodus  
Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## Hymn Of Response - Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized

(ELW #304, please remain seated)



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you  
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant  
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the  
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as  
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's  
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to  
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.  
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.  
give your life for all, to give your life for all.  
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.; Music: LOBT GOTT IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; Text © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Prayer Of The Church (Please stand)

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. — Silent prayer - For the calling of all people to faith, that the souls for whom Jesus Christ gave His life would be brought to repentance and saving faith through the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Living Father, speak Your words of life!**

**Pastor:** For all those who are united to Jesus' death and resurrection in the waters of their Baptism, that the life of God's people would be marked by the Spirit's fruit of faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Cleansing Father, speak Your words of life!**

Pastor: For all pastors, teachers, and other servant leaders in Christ's Church, that their lives be shaped by the One who laid down His life in selfless sacrifice for others, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Serving Father, speak Your words of life!**

Pastor: For all who hear God's Word, receive His Sacrament, and live out their vocations in the church, home, workplace, and society, that their witness to Christ in word and action may touch countless hearts and lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Loving Father, speak Your words of life!**

Pastor: For all who labor in positions of leadership in our government, along with all who serve in the armed forces and other public safety professions, that the living voice of our God speak over land, over water, and over all who trust in Him, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Protecting Father, speak Your words of life!**

Pastor: For all who are ailing in body, mind, and spirit, that the Lord would speak words and work wonders to deliver His healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Healing Father, speak Your words of life!**

**Additional prayers:**

Pastor: Lord in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

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

## **Communion Hymn - Crashing Waters at Creation**

(Tune: LBW #551, please remain seated)

1. Crashing waters at creation,  
ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
first to witness day's beginning  
from the brightness of night's death:  
Parting water stood and trembled  
as the captives passed on through,  
washing off the chains of bondage—  
channel to a life made new.
2. Cleansing water once at Jordan  
closed around the one foretold,  
opened to reveal the glory  
ever new and ever old.  
Living water, never ending,  
quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Wellspring, source of life eternal,  
drench our dryness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993. Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
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## **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**

## **The Words Of Our Lord** (Please remain standing)

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.”

## **Lord’s Prayer** (Prayed together. 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.**

## **Invitation to Communion** (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** Come to the table. Feast on God’s abundant life for you.

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

## **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)

## Post-Communion Prayer (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Let us pray...We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this gift, and we ask You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same gift in faith toward You and in love toward one another. By Your Spirit, release us from all our worries and fears that we may continually trust in Your saving Word; 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 (Romans 6:3–4, Please remain standing)

Pastor: For surely you know that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus, we were baptized into union with his death.

People: **By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life.**

Pastor: Walk in the newness of life you have been given by the Father, who has called you by name and made you His own in Jesus Christ! . . . 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 Hymn - Bless Now, O God, the Journey

(Tune: LBW #389, please remain standing)

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.

- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors,  
your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.
- 3 Divine eternal lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for land of promise  
where milk and honey flow,  
but waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.

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## **Announcements**

## **Recessional**

## **Serving The Lord With Gladness**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Ricky Adams</b>
<b>Organist:</b>	<b>Janet Reese</b>
<b>Lay Minister:</b>	<b>Rick Kenney</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Mary Ann Griller and Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	<b>Don and Beverly Erbel</b>
<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Beverly Erbel and Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Jackie Reynolds</b>
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Beverly Erbel</b>

## Activities This Week:

<b>Sunday – January 13</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Service of the Word And Sacrament</b>
<b>Tuesday – January 15</b>	9:30-12: 30 pm 4:30-6:30 pm	Stage Door (PH) Cindy Levy Music Class (LL)
<b>Wednesday – January 16</b>	2:45 – 6:15 pm 3:30-4:30 6:00 pm <b>7:00 pm</b>	Patricia Miner (N) Cindy Levy Music Class (LL) Stage Door (PH) <b>Council (LL)</b>
<b>Friday – January 18</b>	<b>9:30-11:00 am</b>	<b>German Story Time (N)</b>
<b>Saturday – January 19</b>	8:30-9:30am 9:30a-12:30pm	Pilates (PH) Stage Door (PH)
<b>Sunday – January 20</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

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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.

**Friday - Roger Steiner**

**Saturday - Ceci Murdoch**

**Mike Clark**

**Men's Bible Class** – The Men's Bible Class will meet on Wednesday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. We will continue our study on Vocation. Please join us!

**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**

## **January 13, 2018 – January 19, 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 – January 14**

Psalm 106:1-12  
Judges 4:1-16  
Ephesians 6:10-17

### **Tuesday – January 15**

Psalm 106:1-12  
Judges 5:12-21  
1 John 5:13-21

### **Wednesday – January 16**

Psalm 106:1-12  
Numbers 27:1-11  
Luke 11:33-36

### **Thursday – January 17**

Psalm 36:5-10  
Jeremiah 3:1-5  
Acts 8:18-24

**Friday – January 18**

Psalm 36:5-10

Jeremiah 3:19-25

1 Corinthians 7:1-7

**Saturday – January 19**

Psalm 36:5-10

Jeremiah 4:1-4

Luke 11:14-23

**Scripture Readings For Next Sunday****Second Sunday after the Epiphany****Isaiah 62:1-5****Psalm 36:5-10****1 Corinthians 12:1-11****John 2:1-11****Upcoming Commemorations**

**January 17 - Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356:** One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

**January 17 - Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346:** Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

**January 18 - Confession of Peter:** Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

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