



Peace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ricky Adams

Church Office - (415) 388-2065

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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!

Third Sunday After The Epiphany

January 26, 2020

Introduction

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy. Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church today!

Prayer Before Worship - Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. - Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009220.

Pre-Service Music (A time for reflection)

Ringling Of The Bell

Welcome

Opening Sentences (Psalm 27:1, 4-9)

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People: **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

Pastor: For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- on a rock.

People: Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Pastor: Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

People: My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

Pastor: Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Entrance Song – Songs Of Thankfulness And Praise

(Tune: LBW #407. Please remain standing)

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

- 3 Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee
at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in flesh made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885

Confession And Forgiveness

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

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen. - Silence is kept for reflection.
- God who searches us and knows us,

**All: you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other
lights to find our way. We have not been just in our dealings
with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have
promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With
what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show
us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

People: Amen.

(We share the Lord's peace with one another)

Response - I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light (ELW #815. Please be seated)

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness.
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.
Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934. Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson. Text and music ©1970, 1975 Celebration. CCLI #209714

First Reading - Isaiah 9:1-4 (Please remain seated)

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations!

People: **Extol Him, all peoples!**

Pastor: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

People: **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 - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Please remain seated)

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to

Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation (Please stand)

Pastor: Alleluia. Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
People: **and cured every sickness among the people. Alleluia.** (Matt. 4:23)

Gospel - Matthew 4:12-23 (Please remain standing)

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Song Of The Day - Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

(Tune: LBW #499. Please be seated)

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955. Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #209714

Message

A Baptismal Culture
Capernaum, The City Of Jesus
Matthew 4:12-25

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

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. — Silence for personal prayer - We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed and the gifts of God be shared. Lord of the Church,

People: **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray this day for our nation and for all nations of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,

People: **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for our families and our neighbors. Grant that we walk in the light of Christ and together praise our gracious God for all He has done for us. Lord of all generations,

People: **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially for the hospitalized and those who are homebound during this season. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and all those for whom our petitions are desired. Lord of care and grace,

People: **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

Additional prayers:

Pastor: Lord of love

People: in mercy, hear our prayer

Pastor: As a community of the faithful, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life in hope and joy. Direct our ways on earth that we complete our journey of life in faith and rejoice together with them eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in life everlasting. Lord of eternity,

People: in mercy, hear our prayer.

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

People: Amen.

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

Communion Song - One Bread, One Body (ELW #496. Please remain seated)

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939. Text © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission. CCLI #209714

✠ 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, Lord our God. You call us to be Your people who hear the call of Christ and follow His light. Grant that we know the joy of discipleship in our lives. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord here given as the bread of life and cup of salvation, which are a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy (Tune: LBW #165. Please remain standing)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Day and night we join to praise
Your love and majesty.
You alone are holy, worthy, and righteous.
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
We rejoice to join the hymns
Of earth and sky and sea.
Generations praise You, with saints and angels.
Holy and bless'd through all eternity.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar. Copyright © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Pastor: Blessed are You, almighty Lord, for calling us as Your people and displaying Your abiding care for us as we respond to Your call to be Your followers and friends. As we are gathered as Your family at Your gracious invitation, grant that we be strengthened in faith toward You and in genuine love for one another as we walk in the light of Your presence and await Your coming in glory. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our thanksgiving.

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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei - O Lamb of God, We Pray (Tune: LBW #479. Please remain standing)

O Lamb of God, we pray:
Take all our sins away—
Our faith increase.
Have mercy on us all,
Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call
And grant us peace.

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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 to the side. 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 Thanksgiving (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Let us pray. ... Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You we have been fed and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that we rejoice in the epiphany of our Lord and see in Him the fullness of Your divine presence. Grant us Your abiding peace each day of our lives as we await Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, our hope and comfort, we pray.

People: **Amen.**

Blessing (Please remain standing)

Pastor: May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

Dismissal (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Go in peace. Let your light shine.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song - God, Whose Almighty Word (LBW #400. Please remain standing)

- 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!
- 2 Lord, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind:
oh, now to humankind
let there be light!

- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!
- 4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might!
Boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light!

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

Announcements

Recessional

Serving The Lord With Gladness

Pastor:	Pastor Ricky Adams
Pianist:	Janet Reese
Altar Guild:	Mary Ann Griller, Vicki McGowan
Coffee:	Nancy Adams
Counter:	Beverly Erbel
Ushers:	Peter Pardini
Lay Reader:	Nancy Adams

Activities This Week:

Sunday – January 26	9:30 am	Service of the Word And Sacrament
Tuesday – January 28	9:30am -12: 30 pm 6:30 p.m.	Stage Door (PH) Women’s Bible Class (LL)
Wednesday – January 29	10:-11 a.m. 2:45-6:15 pm 6:00 pm	Yoga – Dahlia (LL) Patricia Miner (S) Stage Door (PH)
Saturday – February 1	8:30-9:30am 9:30a-12:30pm	Pilates (PH) Stage Door (PH)
Sunday – February 2	9:30 am	Service of the Word

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

Flowers – Flowers today are given to the glory of God.

Birthdays – Blessings to those who celebrated or will celebrate birthdays:

Last Sunday - Mike Clark
Last Tuesday - Peter Pardini
Last Thursday - John Moorhead
Today - Katrina Hayes

Women’s Bible Class – The women’s Bible Class will meet Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge. Hope to see you there!

Servers – Every Sunday there are several people that help serve during the worship service and coffee hour. Peace Lutheran needs your help. We need people to prepare Coffee hour and serve during that time. We need Ushers. We need lay readers who read the second lesson during worship. Please consider these needs and sign up to serve in the way you choose. Thank you.

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

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. Pastor Adams post a weekly blog on Facebook and Peace Lutheran's website at www.plcmarin.org

Weekly Devotional Helps

January 26 – February 1, 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 – January 27

Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 6:11-24
Ephesians 5:6-14

Tuesday – January 28

Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 7:12-23
Philippians 2:12-18

Wednesday – January 29

Psalm 27:7-14
Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26
Luke 1:67-79

Thursday – January 30

Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 16:18-20
1 Peter 3:8-12

Friday – January 31

Psalm 15

Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4

1 Timothy 5:17-24

Saturday – February 1

Psalm 15

Micah 3:1-4

John 13:31-35

Scripture Readings For Next Sunday**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany****Micah 6:1-8****Psalm 15****1 Corinthians 1:18-31****Matthew 5:1-12****Commemorations**

January 26 - Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries: These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

January 27 - Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith: Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

January 28 - Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274: One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

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