

# **Peace Lutheran Church**

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**Pastor Ricky Adams** 

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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. <u>We</u> would appreciate your signing our guestbook before you leave.

. . . . . . .

# 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.

# Please join us again next week!

# Fourth Sunday In Lent March 31, 2019

#### As We Gather

"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift; that's why we call it the present." This short statement speaks volumes about our new life in Christ. Yesterday is history—in Christ, all our sins have been paid for, forgiven, and cast away as far as the east is from the west. Tomorrow is a mystery—not only do we not know the day or hour of Christ's glorious return, but we also have no guarantees about what will happen in our lives mere moments from now. Today is a gift—the present time is indeed a gift, a present, from our gracious Father. He mercifully comes running to His prodigal children and embraces us in His arms. His love picks us up and places us into the nail-scarred hands of His Son, Jesus Christ, who puts to death our old lives, which were once lived without Him, and freely gives to us our new lives, which are now fully lived in and through Him. Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church today!

**Prayer Before Worship** - Father, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he "came to himself." Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to You. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, but to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might see that Your arms open in welcome. Amen. ~ written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the website of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre.

#### **Pre-Service Music**

## Ringing Of The Bell

#### Welcome

## Call To Worship (Please stand)

Pastor: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

People: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been

found and welcomed home.

Pastor: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

People: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Pastor: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love. - Nancy Townley, and

posted on the Worship Connection page of the Ministry Matters website.

People: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who gathers us in the

wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

People: Amen.

#### Entrance Hymn - Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

(LBW #448, please remain standing)

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snaresI have already come;'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

# Psalm - Psalm 32 (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are

pardoned.

People: Happy is the one whom the LORD does not accuse of doing

wrong and who is free from all deceit.

Pastor: When I did not confess my sins, I was worn out from crying all day

long.

People: Day and night you punished me, LORD; my strength was completely drained, as moisture is dried up by the summer heat.

Pastor: Then I confessed my sins to you; I did not conceal my wrongdoings.

I decided to confess them to you, and you forgave all my sins.

People: So all your loyal people should pray to you in times of need;

when a great flood of trouble comes rushing in, it will not reach

them.

Pastor: You are my hiding place; you will save me from trouble. I sing aloud

of your salvation, because you protect me.

People: The LORD says, "I will teach you the way you should go; I will

instruct you and advise you.

Pastor: Don't be stupid like a horse or a mule, which must be controlled with

a bit and bridle to make it submit."

People: The wicked will have to suffer, but those who trust in the LORD

are protected by his constant love.

Pastor: You that are righteous, be glad and rejoice because of what the LORD

has done. You that obey him, shout for joy!

(We share the peace of the Lord)

Response - Today Your Mercy Calls Us (LBW #304, please be seated)

1 Today your mercy calls us to wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, whatever we have been, however long from mercy our hearts have turned away, your precious blood can wash us and make us clean today.

(Continued on the next page)

- 2 Today your gate is open, and all who enter in shall find a Father's welcome and pardon for their sin.

  The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv'n, a future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav'n.
- Today our Father calls us; his Holy Spirit waits; his blessed angels gather around the heav'nly gates. No question will be asked us, how often we have come; although we oft have wandered, it is our Father's home.
- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,
  O ever-open Door,
  what should we do without you
  when heart and eye run o'er?
  When all things seem against us,
  to drive us to despair,
  we know one gate is open,
  one ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-1878, alt.

## First Reading - Joshua 5:9-12 (Please remain seated)

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have removed from you the disgrace of being slaves in Egypt." That is why the place was named Gilgal, the name it still has. <sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camping at Gilgal on the plain near Jericho, they observed Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month. <sup>11</sup> The next day was the first time they ate food grown in Canaan: roasted grain and bread

made without yeast. <sup>12</sup> The manna stopped falling then, and the Israelites no longer had any. From that time on they ate food grown in Canaan.

#### Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (Please remain seated)

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

<sup>6</sup> So we are always full of courage. We know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord's home. 7 For our life is a matter of faith, not of sight. 8 We are full of courage and would much prefer to leave our home in the body and be at home with the Lord. 9 More than anything else, however, we want to please him, whether in our home here or there. <sup>10</sup> For all of us must appear before Christ, to be judged by him. We will each receive what we deserve, according to everything we have done, good or bad, in our bodily life. <sup>11</sup> We know what it means to fear the Lord, and so we try to persuade others. God knows us completely, and I hope that in your hearts you know me as well. <sup>12</sup>We are not trying again to recommend ourselves to you; rather, we are trying to give you a good reason to be proud of us, so that you will be able to answer those who boast about people's appearance and not about their character. <sup>13</sup> Are we really insane? It is for God's sake. Or are we sane? Then it is for your sake. 14 We are ruled by the love of Christ, now that we recognize that one man died for everyone, which means that they all share in his death. <sup>15</sup> He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but only for him who died and was raised to life for their sake. <sup>16</sup> No longer, then, do we judge anyone by human standards. Even if at one time we judged Christ according to human standards, we no longer do so. 17 Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. <sup>19</sup> Our message is that God was making all human beings his friends through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends. <sup>20</sup> Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends! <sup>21</sup> Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God.

#### Gospel - Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, 2 the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" <sup>3</sup> So Jesus told them this parable: . . . "There was once a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the property now.' So the man divided his property between his two sons. 13 After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. <sup>15</sup> So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. <sup>17</sup> At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! 18 I will get up and go to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. 19 I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers." <sup>20</sup> So he got up and started back to his father. "He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. 21 'Father,' the son said, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' 22 But the father called to his servants. 'Hurry!' he said. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.' And so the feasting began. <sup>25</sup> "In the meantime the older son was out in the field. On his way back, when he came close to the house, he heard the music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him, 'What's going on?' 27 'Your brother has come back home,' the servant answered, 'and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> The older brother was so angry that he would not go into the house; so his father came out and begged him to come in. <sup>29</sup> But he spoke back to his father, 'Look, all these years I have worked for you like a slave, and I have never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a goat for me to have a feast with my friends! 30 But this son of yours wasted all your property on prostitutes, and when he comes back home, you kill the prize calf for him!' 31 'My son,' the father answered, 'you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found."

## **Hymn –** What Wondrous Love Is This (LBW #385, please remain seated)

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
- When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free,
  I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
  and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
  and when from death I'm free,
  I'll sing God's love for me,
  and through eternity
  I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
  and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

## Message

## Surprised By Joy Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Response - All Who Believe and Are Baptized (LBW #194, please remain seated)

- All who believe and are baptized shall see the Lord's salvation; baptized into the death of Christ, they are a new creation; through Christ's redemption they will stand among the glorious heav'nly band of ev'ry tribe and nation.
- With one accord, O God, we pray, grant us your Holy Spirit; help us in our infirmity through Jesus' blood and merit; grant us to grow in grace each day by holy baptism, that we may eternal life inherit.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860-1943, alt.

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

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 remain standing)

Pastor: We are Your prodigal sons and daughters, O Lord, who come to Your

mercy praying for Your grace to hear the prayers of Your people and answer them in accordance with Your will. - Silent prayer - Eternal God, Your mercy has triumphed and rescued Your fallen people. Keep us in faith and in the covenant of our Baptism, that we may rejoice to fulfill our baptismal calling and serve You as ambassadors for Christ.

Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You are the hope of the hopeless, the refuge of the

oppressed and the giver of peace to all in distress. Bless the poor, and open our own hearts to share the abundance You have given. Give employment to those without work, and give to all a sense of nobility in the labors of our hands. Fill the hungry with the good news of Your Kingdom and with the good things that are the fruits of the

earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, You give us more than justice and bestow upon us the

riches of Your mercy. Relieve us of all jealousy and discontent, and fill our hearts with generosity and love, that we may bring to You the tithes and offerings of a grateful people and acknowledge You, the

Giver of all good gifts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Loving God, by the wounds of Christ we are made whole. Look with

kindness upon the sick, the suffering, the troubled in mind, the grieving and the dying. Give confidence of Your will and purpose to all who are afflicted, and help them in patience to await the day when they shall no more be troubled by the weaknesses of the flesh and

shall see You face to face. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy Lord, though we in no way deserve Your compassion or Your

kindness, we give You thanks that You welcome us into the arms of Your mercy and restore the fallen. Recall the erring, and renew to Your fellowship those absent too long from Your house, Your Word

and Your table. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

**Additional prayers** 

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy **People: hear our prayer.** 

Pastor: O Lord, endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign. You have

begun in us the good work of our new lives in Christ, and You will bring them to the end prepared You have prepared for us. We give You thanks for the faithful who have gone before us, and we pray You will bring us with patriarch and prophet, apostle and evangelist,

into Your eternal presence forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: 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.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (We pray 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.

#### The Prayer For Peace (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Let us pray. . .O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good

counsels, and all just works,

People: give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot

give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies,

may live in peace and quietness;

Pastor: 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: Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold to what is good;

return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may God, the Father,

the Son and the Holy Spirit Bless each of you.

People: Amen

#### **Dismissal** (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Closing Hymn - Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

(Tune: LBW #278, please remain standing)

- Lord Jesus Christ, be present now; our hearts in true devotion bow.
   Your Spirit send with light divine, and let your truth within us shine.
- 2 Unseal our lips to sing your praise in endless hymns through all our days; increase our faith and light our minds; and set us free from doubt that blinds.
- 3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O holy, holy Lord Most High!" And in the light of that blest place we then shall see you face to face.

4 All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise throughout eternity!

Text: attr. Wilhelm II, 1598-1662; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

#### **Announcements**

#### Recessional

# **Serving The Lord With Gladness**

Pastor: Rev. Ricky Adams

Organist: Janet Reese
Coffee: Mary Ann Griller

Counters: Don and Beverly Erbel

Ushers: Don Erbel and Beverly Erbel

Lay Reader: Rick Kenney

#### **Activities This Week:**

Friday – April 5	9:30-11:00 a.m.	German Story Time (N)
	6-8 pm	Dr. Buhles' Meeting (N)
	6:00 pm	Stage Door (PH)
	3:30-4:30	Cindy Levy Music Class (LL)
Wednesday – April 3	2:45 – 6:15 pm	Patricia Miner (N)
	4:30-6:30 pm	Cindy Levy Music Class (LL)
Tuesday – April 2	9:30-12: 30 pm	Stage Door (PH)
Sunday – March 31	9:30 am	Service of the Word

Saturday – April 6 8:30-9:30am Pilates (PH) 9:30a-12:30pm Stage Door (PH)

Sunday – April 7 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

**Good Friday and Easter:** Here is the list of events for Holy Week. Remember to join in the observance and celebration! Invite your friends!

Good Friday Community Observance – 7:00 p.m. April 19 Easter Worship – 9:30 a.m., April 21 Easter Egg Hunt – after worship, April 21 Easter Brunch – after Easter Egg Hunt, April 21

**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.

**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

# **Weekly Devotional Helps March 31, 2019 – April 6, 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 – April 1

Psalm 53 Leviticus 23:26-41 Revelation 19:1-8

Wednesday - April 3

Psalm 53 2 Kings 4:1-7 Luke 9:10-17 Tuesday - April 2

Psalm 53 Leviticus 25:1-19 Revelation 19:9-10

Thursday - April 4

Psalm 126 Isaiah 43:1-7 Philippians 2:19-24 Friday – April 5 Psalm 126 Isaiah 43:8-15 Philippians 2:25-3:1 Saturday – April 6 Psalm 126 Exodus 12:21-27 John 11:45-57

## **Scripture Readings For Next Sunday**

# Fifth Sunday In Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 Luke 20:9-20

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

**March 31 - John Donne, poet, died 1631:** After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

**April 4 - Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589:** Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

April 6 - Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists: These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.