

Pastor Ricky Adams



We Gather In The Presence Of God

O That You Would Tear Open The Heavens And Come Down Isaiah 64:1-9

The season of Advent invites us to wait impatiently for the consummation of hope, longing to know God as fully as we have been known; to see no longer through a dark pane, but face to face; to love as we have been loved; to experience Jesus Christ as he is, and in so doing, to become like him. As we approach the end of the liturgical year the readings remind of us this aspect of Jesus' teaching: his glorious return to the earth. The day of his coming heralds the salvation and vindication of the righteous, a day of joy rather than fear. Yet we need to watch out so as not to be caught unawares when that mysterious day comes. I thank Jesus for these comforting words and ask for the grace to lead a watchful rather than a superficial life. Thank you for joining in worship.

Invocation and Psalm (Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19. Please stand)

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

People: **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Pastor: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

People: **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

Pastor: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

People: **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Pastor: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

People: **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

Pastor: And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

People: **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Opening Song – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (LBW #34. Please be seated)

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710;
tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

God Speaks Through His Word

First Reading - Isaiah 64:1-9 (Please be seated)

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

Pastor: ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people. ... This is God's Word

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading – Mark 13:24-37 (Please remain seated)

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

Pastor: [Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his

elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”
... This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Song – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (Tune: LBW #108, please remain seated)

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you,
there, standing at the door,
who best can help and cheer you
and bids you weep no more.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite

Message

“The Heavens Are Torn Open”
Isaiah 64:1

We Bring Our Praises, Prayers And Gifts

Affirmation of Faith (Please stand)

Pastor: This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:
People: That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Pastor: There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus,
**People: Who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony
given at the proper time.**

Pastor: Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:
**People: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by
angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.**

Pastor: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain!
**People: To receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and
honor and glory and praise!**

Pastor: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty,
People: Who was, and is, and is to come.

Pastor: The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say,
“Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come.
People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The Prayers (Please remain standing)

Pastor: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. - A brief silence.
- We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Additional Prayers

Pastor: Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great**

Pastor: We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. 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 - What Child Is This (LBW #40, please remain standing)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

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 Dahlia Stein (Today), Jackie Stoneking (Wednesday) and Janice Hellman (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 Sunday, December 6th after worship service.

Weekly Devotional Helps

November 29 – December 5, 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 – November 30

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Isaiah 6:1-7:9

1 Peter 2:13-25

Tuesday – December 1

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Isaiah 7:10-8:8

1 Peter 3:1-22

Wednesday – December 2

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Isaiah 8:9-9:7

1 Peter 4:1-19

Thursday – December 3

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Isaiah 9:8-10:11

1 Peter 5:1-14

Friday – December 4

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Isaiah 10:12-27a, 33-34

2 Peter 1:1-21

Saturday – December 5

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Isaiah 11:1-12:6

2 Peter 2:1-22

Scripture Readings For Next Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

Commemorations

November 30 - Andrew, Apostle: The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

December 3 - Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552: A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

December 4 - John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749: A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.