Walk with Mary
Prayer Service Commemorating
Our Lady of Peace
Sunday January 24, 2016 at 2 PM

239-241 East 62nd Street, New York City
Audio Teleconference
Dial: 1-641-715-3580
Access Code: 253638#
Instructions for Participation by Audio Teleconference

Please dial in before 2 PM, follow the prompts to enter the access code, followed by the # or pound sign. If prompted to announce your name, your first name is sufficient. Place your mobile phone on mute immediately. If you are using a land line and cannot mute your phone, please make sure you are in a place where there is absolute silence and no background noise will be transmitted. If you call in during the musical prelude or any of the readings, please do not announce yourself. Following these simple directions will make the audio experience better for all participants.

About Our Lady of Peace

Our Lady of Peace, Mother of Peace, Queen of Peace or Our Lady Queen of Peace is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Roman Catholic Church. She is represented in art holding a dove and an olive branch, symbols of peace. Her official memorial feast is celebrated on January 24 each year in Hawaii and some churches in the United States. Elsewhere, the memorial feast is celebrated on July 9.

Our Lady of Peace is the patroness of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary religious order, founded by Peter Coudrin in Paris during the French Revolution. When the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary established the Catholic Church in Hawaii, they consecrated the Hawaiian Islands under the protection of Our Lady of Peace. They erected the first Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii to her. Today, the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu is the oldest Roman Catholic cathedral in continuous use in the United States.

There are three famous statues of Our Lady of Peace located in Paris and Honolulu. The original is a wooden carving located at a convent of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in France. A larger replica in bronze was hoisted above the altar and sanctuary at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace, while a third stands on a pedestal outside the cathedral.

The original statue of Our Lady of Peace was ceremonially crowned on July 9, 1906 by the Archbishop of Paris in the name of Pope Saint Pius X. Every July 9 since then, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary have celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Peace. During the troubled years of World War I, Pope Benedict XV added Our Lady of Peace to the Litany of Loreto, a sacred prayer in liturgy.¹

Our Lady of Peace Church in Manhattan was named in honor of the peace that followed World War I.²

Prelude: J.S. Bach, *Magnificat*, Instrumental Introduction

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mary (Lourdes Hymn)
Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing.
You reign now in Heaven with Jesus our King.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria! Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!

In Heaven the blessed your glory proclaim;
On earth we your children invoke your sweet name.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria! Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!

We pray for our Mother, the Church upon earth,
And bless, Holy Mary, the land of our birth.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria! Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!

Invocation & Welcome:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
We gather today to commemorate the mother of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Peace. As we acclaim Mary, the Mother of God, as our queen, and as the Mother of the Church, let us imitate her example and be attentive to the word of God. As we honor Mary, who is higher than the cherubim and yet like us, let us pray that through her intercession we may achieve holiness in life, and a deepened faith, hope, and love, as we seek to do the will of God in all things.

Opening Prayer:
Let us pray.
Father,
You have given us the mother of your Son to be our queen and mother.
With the support of her prayers, may we come to share the glory of your children in the kingdom of heaven.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. R: Amen.

Scripture Reading: The Coming Ruler of God’s People - Zechariah 9:9
Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O Daughter of Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
Triumphant and victorious is he,
Humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey
Anthem: “O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion,” Messiah, G.F. Handel

Responsorial Psalm: 1 Samuel 2: 1,4-8
R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.
As Hannah worshiped the Lord, she said, she said: “My heart exults in the Lord, My horn is exalted in my God. I have swallowed up my enemies, I rejoice in my victory.”
R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

The bows of the mighty are broken, While the tottering gird on strength, The well-fed hire themselves out for bread, While the hungry batten on spoil. The barren wife bears seven sons, While the money of many languishes.
R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

The Lord puts to death and gives life; He casts down to the nether world; He raises up again. The Lord makes poor and makes rich, He humbles, he also exalts.
R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

He raises the needy from the dust; From the ask heap, he lifts up the poor, To seat them with nobles And make a glorious throne their heritage.
R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

Scripture Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1: 2-8
Until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Homily: Walking with Mary – “An Open Heart” by Edward Sri

The angel Gabriel’s opening words to Mary are truly remarkable: “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28). No one in all of biblical history had ever been addressed quite like that before. Although most Christians are familiar with these words, they often miss the profound meaning of this greeting. This is even true for Catholics who echo Gabriel’s salutation every time they recite the prayer known as the Hail Mary. But what if you were a young Jewish woman living in first-century Galilee and were encountering these sacred words for the very first time? What would this greeting have meant to you? Let’s put ourselves in Mary’s shoes and imagine being confronted by these words. Gabriel says three amazing things to Mary in this opening verse of his message: she is called to “rejoice,” she is addressed as “full of grace,” and she is assured that the Lord is with her....

Gabriel’s initial word to Mary—Hail, or chaire in Greek—means much more than a simple “hello.” The word literally means “rejoice.” It is true that the word chaire was a common Greek greeting and is used this way in Luke’s Gospel in contexts involving persons who were Greek speakers. Hence some scholars see in Gabriel’s opening word to Mary nothing more than an ordinary salutation. * But Mary dwells in the Jewish village of Nazareth. And Luke’s Gospel never uses chaire in a Jewish milieu to express an ordinary salutation. Moreover, the angel is delivering the most important announcement in human history. It seems quite unlikely, therefore, that Luke intends nothing more than a simple “hello” when Gabriel utters his first word to Mary....
The second point that stands out in Gabriel’s greeting is the way he addresses Mary. The angel does not call her by her personal name—he does not say “Hail, Mary, full of grace.” He simply says to her, “Hail, full of grace.” As numerous Scripture scholars have pointed out, it is as if Mary is being given a new name: “full of grace.” And in the Bible that is significant. This is not a mere nickname. When someone receives a new name in Scripture, God is revealing something about the essence of the person and the mission to which he or she is called. Abram’s name, for example, is changed to Abraham (meaning “father of a multitude”) because he is called to become the great patriarch of Israel (Gen. 17). Likewise, Jesus changes the apostle Simon’s name to Peter (meaning “rock”) because he has become the rock upon which Christ would build his Church (Matt. 16). Mary is addressed as “full of grace,” her new title, which points to something about the mission that is being entrusted to her. As John Paul II noted, “full of grace” is “the name Mary possesses in the eyes of God.”

Third, let us consider the angel’s assurance, “The Lord is with you” (1:28). Throughout the Bible, these words of greeting were used to address men and women who were called by God for a special task, one that would have an impact on all of Israel. Their mission would require much generosity, many sacrifices, and great trust—and that is why they were given the assurance that they would not have to face these trials alone: God would be with them, guiding, protecting, and strengthening them....

At this very early stage of Gabriel’s visit, Mary already faces an important, albeit subtle, choice. When, through the angel’s greeting, God begins to show her that he is calling her to some formidable task, will she be truly open to this call? Or will she, in fear, close herself off to the new possibility, never seriously weighing it as a pathway for her life? Mary chooses to remain open. She takes God’s initial message to heart and considers the meaning of the angel’s greeting. She chooses to remain in dialogue with God’s Word. Though Mary was given a unique vocation, all of us, at one time or another, will be called by the Lord to do something we would rather evade. We will face our own “annunciations,” and like Mary we will need to choose between being open to new directions in which the Lord may want to take us or closing ourselves off from these possibilities out of fear or a willful clinging to our own plans.

The twentieth-century Catholic writer Denise Levertov makes this point in her meditative poem on the Annunciation:

_Aren’t there annunciations of one sort or another in most lives? Some unwillingly undertake great destinies, enact them in sullen pride, uncomprebending._
More often
those moments
when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman
are turned away from
in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair
and with relief.

For most of us, when the Lord knocks on the door of our hearts prompting us to do something difficult—whether it be giving up something we like, making a moral change in our lives, taking on a difficult task, or moving to a new place—we are afraid to let him in. We find the demands of the Lord too much. We thus close the door on our own “annunciations” and turn away from the path on which he may want to lead us.

From the outside, our lives may go on looking the same as before. But inside something profound has changed—our willingness to open wide the doors of our hearts to Christ, to surrender our lives entirely to the Lord, and to follow him wherever he wishes to lead us. Pathways that are for our good and that serve God’s purposes in the world are averted. As Levertov writes, “Ordinary lives continue. But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.”

Mary’s response, however, is exemplary. She is presented with a challenging vocation, yet she responds with great courage.

Called to a destiny more momentous
Than any in all of Time,
She did not quail.…
She did not cry, “I cannot, I am not worthy,”
or, “I have not the strength” …
Bravest of all humans,
consent illumined her.
The room was filled with its light,
the lily glowed in it,
and the iridescent wings.
Consent, courage unparalleled,
opened her utterly.³

Anthem: Magnificat (My Soul Magnifies the Lord) – Songs of Taize’

The Prayers of the People:
With hope and clarity of heart and mind let us pray together putting our requests before the Lord responding, “Hear our Prayer” to each petition:

For Inspiration for those who serve our community that they will know your guidance and direction, Lord in your mercy,
R. Hear our prayer

Guide all those who lead and advocate for your people in the world, may they demonstrate your love and concern always, Lord in your mercy,
R. Hear our prayer

So that each of us and all of us can learn how to serve and support one another, to offer love, and care for all of those we encounter, Lord in your mercy,
R. Hear our prayer

For the spiritual and corporal needs of our community, Lord in your mercy,
R. Hear our prayer

For the protection of our armed forces, the peacekeepers and those entrusted to their care, Lord in your mercy,
R. Hear our prayer

For those who live with grief help them see your good works, Lord in your mercy,
R. Hear our prayer

Help us address those in pain and suffering. Allow us to reach out in your name. Lord in your mercy,
R. Hear our prayer

For the people of the archdiocese displaced by the merger of churches In your infinite mercy provide clarity and peace to them. Lord in your mercy,
R. Hear our prayer

For those intentions known only in our hearts, Lord in thy mercy,
R. Hear our prayer

We thank you Lord for hearing our petitions and with sincere gratitude pray that you stay in our hearts.
Closing Prayer: Prayer to Mary, Queen of Peace  
(Cardinal Renato R. Martino)

Holy Mary, Mother of Love,  
holding in your arms the tender fruit of your womb,  
you heard echoing in the sky over Bethlehem,  
the angelic announcement of peace,  
the first gift to the world of the Word made flesh,  
graciously turn your glance down on the dark night of our earth  
still inebriated with hate and violence.

Mother of Mercy, you gave to the world the Savior,  
obtain for rulers wisdom and discernment,  
so that they use the conquests of science and technology  
to promote a human development  
respectful of creation and works of justice, solidarity and peace.

Make enemies open to dialogue,  
bring adversaries to shaking hands and all peoples to meet in harmony.  
Virgin Mary, hidden in the house in Nazareth,  
you lived with simple and faithful love the daily dimension of family life,  
enter into each of our families and melt the ice of indifference and silence  
that makes parents strangers and distant one from each other  
and from their own children.

Mary, Queen of Peace,  
help us to understand that the first peace we must attain  
is that of a heart freed from sin,  
and make it that, purified as such,  
we are able also to become builders of peace,  
so that the city of man can become the industrious workplace  
in which is realized the salvation of Christ your Son, who is the true and lasting peace.  
Amen!

An Invocation for Blessing & Dismissal:  
Gracious Lord,  
With love and devotion we have honored the holy Mother of God. May she continue  
to intercede for us with Jesus Christ, Her Son, now and forever. R. Amen

We all pray that God will bless us.  
In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Closing Hymn: Hail Holy Queen (Salve Regina)

Hail, holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria.
Hail, Queen of mercy and of love, O Maria.

Triumph, all ye cherubim, Sing with us, ye seraphim,
Heaven and earth resound the hymn:
Salve, salve, salve Regina!

Our life, our sweetness, here below, O Maria!
Our hope in sorrow and in woe, O Maria!

Triumph, all ye cherubim, Sing with us, ye seraphim,
Heaven and earth resound the hymn:
Salve, salve, salve Regina!

To thee we cry, poor sons of Eve, O Maria!
To thee we sigh, we mourn, we grieve, O Maria!

Triumph, all ye cherubim, Sing with us, ye seraphim,
Heaven and earth resound the hymn:
Salve, salve, salve Regina!

Turn then most gracious Advocate, O Maria!
Toward us thine eyes compassionate, O Maria!

Triumph, all ye cherubim, Sing with us, ye seraphim,
Heaven and earth resound the hymn:
Salve, salve, salve Regina!

The cause of joy to men below, O Maria!
The spring through which all graces flow, O Maria!

Angels, all your praises bring, Earth and heaven, with us sing,
All creation echoing:
Salve, salve, salve Regina!