

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Resurrection Lutheran Church is called by God, to reach beyond our walls and share the Good News, bringing Christ to the world through Prayer, Love, and Action.

Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings

Sunday, January 5, 2025—9:30 AM

Celebration of Epiphany

Holy Communion

All are welcome to commune and receive Christ in bread and wine. Please fill out a communion card and give it to the usher when coming forward for Communion

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

WELCOME

CENTERING TIME

*2 minutes of silence to center our hearts for worship.
Our time will conclude after the centering music.*

CALL TO WORSHIP - “The Road Isn’t Straight”

P How did you get here?

Left side of the room: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.

Right side of the room: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.

Left side of the room: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.

Right side of the room: I ambled like a river, caught up in God’s flow.

C **I crawled, kissing the earth below me.**

P Tell me again. How did you get here?

C I am here by God's grace and love's pull.

P Welcome home. This is God's house. There is room for you here.

C Let us worship our gracious God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Friends, one of the gifts of confession is it allows us to begin again. For in this moment of prayer, we name our shortcomings and mistakes. We receive God's grace, and we start again.

The slate is wiped clean.

The prayer of confession is an act of beginning again and again and again. So join me in prayer. For even here, God is already doing something new.

Let us begin again. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

C God of new beginnings,

We admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before.

**Sometimes this is holy and humble,
but there are days when a new path needs to be tread.**

**On those new-beginning days, O God,
give us the courage to follow your star.**

Give us the courage to go home by another way.

Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.

For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow.

With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P Dear travelers,

**no matter the roads you've taken, the steps you've made,
or the paths you've traveled, there is nowhere you could go
that would land you outside of God's love.**

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**C Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get,
or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone.**

We are loved. We are forgiven.

We have every chance to begin again. Thanks be to God for a love like that!

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF PEACE

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

OPENING HYMN

ELW #303

Brightest and Best of the Stars



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er our mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

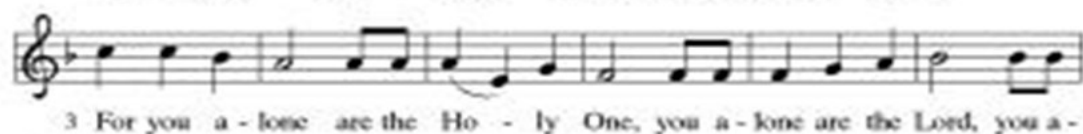


high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



PRAYER FOR ILLUNINATION

P God of starlight,

C **We long to follow you.**

Like the Magi, we want to pick up the hems of our robes and run in your direction.

Like the Magi, we want to kick up dust with our feet and make a joyful ruckus following your guiding star. Unfortunately, the stars can be hard to see from here.

Your still, small voice can be hard to hear from here.

So just as you guided the Magi, guide us. Draw our attention to your Word.

Reveal what it is you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you.

With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,

who makes a way in the sea,

a path in the mighty waters,

¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,

army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸Do not remember the former things,

or consider the things of old.

¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.

²⁰The wild animals will honor me,

the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹the people whom I formed for myself

so that they might declare my praise.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- ¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
² **that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**
¹¹ May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**
¹³ He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gen-
tiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was
given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I
wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my under-
standing of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made
known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by
the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body,
and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was
given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints,
this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of
Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in
God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich
variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

- P The holy gospel according to Matthew.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead

of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P The gospel of the Lord.
 C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Road Winds Ever On

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Plainsong melody, 12th cent.

Fears of stray - ing from the path - way Plant - ed deep
 All our best laid plans can sha - tter Leav - ing us
 A world con - stant - ly in mo - tion E - vades our

in child - hood Come to haunt us when the road ends
 to mourn the loss Of the fu - ture we im - a - gined
 at - tempts to know What may be a - round the cor - ner

4
 And the way a - head is ob - scured Then the Spi - rit
 And feel like our life is on pause At the edge the
 Or where a - ny road — will go So the Spi - rit

wraps a - round us To pro - tect and re - as - sure
 Spi - rit's wait - ing There to fer - ry us a - cross
 stirs with - in us To be car - ried by the flow

7
 And the road winds e - ver on _____

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

C We believe in a with-us God,
a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys, holding our hand
through every bump and turn.
And in the chaos of our journey, we believe that God sees what we cannot
always see: a path home by another way.
Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God, we lace up our shoes.
We look for God's fingerprints in the world. We trust that there are paths still
unexplored, paths that God has only begun to invite us down. And like the
Magi, we dare to follow. May it be so, Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

P God of starlight,
God of new beginnings, We are so grateful.
We are so grateful to be here, at the start of a new year, fresh off the press.
We are so grateful to be here, at the start of a new week, gathered in community. We
are so grateful to begin again.
So here at this beginning, we bring you our prayers.
Holy God, for the people who stand at a crossroad, unsure of what decision to make—
give them clarity.
For those who are weary and worn down by the switchbacks of life, for those walking
with blisters,
for those desperate to find their way home—provide them comfort.
For those who feel confined by paths that are too straight and narrow—guide them to
wide open spaces. Show them your glory in the new path, the untamed path, the twists
and the turns. For those who walk alone—surround them with community.
For those who walk afraid—grant them protection.
For those who want to walk home, but have found that home is no longer there—
destroyed by war or disaster, deemed unsafe by our own human hands—may we see
them. May we know their struggles and may we respond with compassion.
For those who stand out under the night sky, desperate to see a sign of your star—shine
brightly. And for those who dance their way down the path, delighted by the beauty the
journey brings—bless them. Allow their joy to spill over into our lives, inspiring grati-
tude and joy in each of us.
Guiding God, we know that this life of faith is not easy.
Even the Magi, those faithful seekers, had to change course. Even the Magi had to go
home by another way.
So as we journey, bless our wanderings.
Bless our path.
Walk beside us.
Dance beside us.

Hang stars in the sky
and place a deep knowing in our gut that we simply cannot ignore.
And if the road turns into a dead end, grant us the courage to begin again. With hope in
our hearts and gratitude in our lungs,
we unite our voices together, saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERTORY SONG

“We Are an Offering”

ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord use our lives, they are yours:
we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering,
we are an offering.



Scan to donate!

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C **God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - *all are invited *gluten free wafers are available.*

LAMB OF GOD

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Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Nourishing God,

C Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.

We think the world is too far gone.

We think we have made too many mistakes.

We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.

But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom. We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed. And just like that, we have hope. We have peace. We have joy.

Just like that, we begin again.

Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones.

Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here.

We are grateful. We are so grateful.

Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of glory,

+ Jesus Christ, name above all names,

and the Spirit who lives in you,

bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING MUSIC

STATING OUR MISSION

P Resurrection, what is our mission?

C Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings!

BENEDICTION

P As you leave this place,

may you have the wisdom to lean on one another.

May you have the courage to hold onto hope,

the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,

and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.

For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again.

So start here. Start now.

Start with love and begin again. In the name of Christ, our new beginning, go in peace.

C Thanks be to God! Amen.

Pastor: Darryl Thompson Powell
Director of Music: Henrietta Atkin
Oboist: Wayne Ryerson

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion
11:00 am Receive and sort Costco donation

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION

Monday, January 6

12:00 pm Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

Tuesday, January 7

6:30 pm Finance Meeting

Wednesday, January 8

1:00 pm Midweek Service
2:00 pm Bible Study
7:30 pm Evening Service

Thursday, January 9

7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, January 10

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, January 11

Sunday, January 12

9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion
11:00 am Receive and sort Costco donation

With the exception of the financial reports, annual meeting committee reports need to be submitted by January 7.

Online services are available via Facebook (www.facebook.com/rlcfp/live), YouTube (www.youtube.com/rlcfp or search for “Resurrection Lutheran Franklin Park YouTube”) and Twitch.

Bible Study can be accessed via Zoom online (bit.ly/rlcfp-zoom) or by phone (312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 230 167 8868, Password: 9777). You can also watch without participating on YouTube (www.youtube.com/rlcfp).



The flowers today are to the glory of God.



The month of January we are still asking for donations of cereal. Thank you all who continue to support our food pantry!



PRAY FOR MEMBERS: Shari J, Rita V, Judy H, Russ S, Janet C, Lindsay, Valentina, Virginia S, June K and family, Janet G, and Donna T.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF RLC MEMBERS: Lenny, Winnie Z, Christian A, Rene V, Terry, Ronnie W, Anita, Joan P, Joyce F, Pastor Finney, Dana, Leena, Jacque, Diane L, Marilyn R, Ed, Emily F, Lori, Ayla, Curtis, Allen, Nancy, Susan, Victor, Richard, Sarah, John M, Mike I, Sharon V, Gary V, Sophia, Marina, Luisa, Cyndy W, John B, Atour, Billy G, Joyce S, Judy K, Lynn, housekeeping staff at hospitals and nursing homes, the homeless, Elaine R, Linda B and Scott B.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Josiah G and Mike B.