

# 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, December 8, 2024—9:30 AM**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**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**

*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

## **WELCOME**

## **CENTERING TIME**

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

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P** In a world that is lonely,  
**C** **we will save a seat for you.**  
**P** In a world that is anxious,  
**C** **we will light candles against the gloom.**  
**P** In a world that is weary,  
**C** **we will sing songs of joy and truth.**  
**P** I am not alone.

- C **We are not alone.**  
 P For here in this place, God is weaving us together.  
 C **Light the candles! Sing with joy!**  
**We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.**

**CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY**

- P In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?  
 C **Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm.**  
**Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down.**  
**Let us begin with words of peace.**  
 P Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we light the candles of hope and peace.  
 C **May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.**  
 P Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again. Amen.

**HYMN**

(verses 3 & 4)

ELW #257

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

P Family of faith, one of the beautiful things about the prayer of confession is it is often a prayer we say together. There are times when we close our eyes, bow our heads, and exchange private words with our Creator. But there are other times when praying out loud as a community allows us to right our relationship with God and with one another as well.

This is one of those moments.

So as a community, please join me in our call and response prayer of confession.

Join me in speaking the truth of our lives.

Join me in practicing grace.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith.

I have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if I am fine on my own.

But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?

**C We will remind you of this everlasting truth:**

**You are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace.**

**Trust in this good news.**

P Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

**C Now we need your help.**

**We, too, have tried to make our own way.**

**We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own.**

**But the days are long and we are forgetful. We need your help. Can you remind us?**

P I will remind you of this everlasting truth: You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

**C Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! Amen.**

## 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 #656

### Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the remaining lines. The music is in a common time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

## 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.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

P Holy God,

C The words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind. We are caught up in

**news reports, in text messages, in emails and notifications. We are drowning in updates from the media, caught off guard by the constant hum of it all. But here on this bright morning we remember: you too are speaking. Still the voices around us. Calm our minds and center our hearts so that we can hear your words above the wind. We are leaning closer. We are at the edge of our chairs. We are beginning again. Speak to us, as only you can. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Ruth 1**

<sup>1</sup>In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup>Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup>So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me." <sup>9</sup>The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup>They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?" <sup>12</sup>Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup>would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." <sup>14</sup>Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup>So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup>But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge,

your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

<sup>17</sup>Where you die, I will die —  
there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!"

<sup>18</sup>When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

<sup>19</sup>So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" <sup>20</sup>She said to them,

"Call me no longer Naomi,  
call me Mara,

for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

<sup>21</sup>I went away full,

but the LORD has brought me back empty;

why call me Naomi

when the LORD has dealt harshly with me,

and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

<sup>22</sup>So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Luke 1:68-79** (read responsively)

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and | set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your | servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,

<sup>71</sup>from the hands of | all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy | to our forebears,  
and to remember your | holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,

**free to worship you | without fear,**

<sup>75</sup>**holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,

<sup>77</sup> for you will go before the Lord to pre-<sup>1</sup>pare the way,  
**to give God's people knowledge<sup>1</sup> of salvation**  
**by the forgiveness<sup>1</sup> of their sins.**  
<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion<sup>1</sup> of our God  
 the dawn from on high shall<sup>1</sup> break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad-<sup>1</sup>ow of death,**  
**and to guide our feet into the<sup>1</sup> way of peace.**

**SECOND READING: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. <sup>10</sup>For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. <sup>11</sup>Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup>And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

P The holy gospel according to Luke

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING  
WE CAN'T GO ALONE

**TO BE KNOWN**

WALTHAM (“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”)

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by John Baptiste Calkin, 1872



Re - call the truth that we once knew:  
For in the gar - den God de - clared  
In ev - ery age hu - man - i - ty  
Both you and I are in - ter - twined





We were not made for sol - i - tude  
That our brief lives on earth be shared  
Re - lied on mu - tu - al - i - ty  
The warp and weft of hu - man - kind



We need com - mun - i - ties of faith  
With part - ners, friends, and fam - i - ly  
Our God - breathed spi - rits weren't de - signed  
So please don't try to go a - lone



Where we can feel God's warm em - brace  
Who hold us in our joy and grief  
To be di - vid - ed and con - fined  
Your hu - man heart needs to be known

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**C** We believe in a with-us God:.

a God who walks with us in the valley, dances with us on the mountaintop, sings with us through the night and rejoices in the morning.

We believe that this with-us God wired us for relationship, saying to creation on the very first week, “Humans should not be alone.”

Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be, we strive to live like the Trinity—connected, united, and centered.

We believe in the power of community. We commit to learning each other’s names. We choose to journey with each other, like Ruth with Naomi.

And we remember that no one can go through life alone. Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

**P** Relational God,

There are certain truths we know about ourselves. We know that we will make mistakes. We know that we need you. We know that some days are beautiful and

some days are terrible. And we know that we cannot go through life alone. Like flowers need the sun, we humans need relationships. We need you. We need this community. So on this Sunday morning, we give you thanks for the connections we do have. Thank you for the friends who know us. Thank you for the families who claim us. Thank you for the church who welcomes us. Thank you for the neighbors who remember us. Thank you for the mentors who believed in us, and for the saints who taught us. Like Naomi needed Ruth, or Mary needed Joseph, we know that we cannot make the long journey to Bethlehem alone. So for all who walk alongside us, we give you thanks. However, at the same time, we also know that more than ever, we live in a lonely world. The US General Surgeon has declared loneliness an epidemic. So today, as we remember our human need for connection, we also lift up every person who has ever felt disconnected. We pray for anyone who has ever felt invisible in a crowded room. We pray for those who put their heart on their sleeve, extend the invite, and still find themselves eating alone. We pray for those who feel distanced from their family, by choice or circumstance. We pray for those who doubt their worthiness, allowing self narratives to get in the way of meaningful connection. We all long to have a Ruth in our lives. So for those of us still looking for people with loyalty like Ruth, draw near. Remind us that with you, we are never truly alone. With you, we are seen. We are loved. We are known. We are celebrated. Where we go, you go. What greater love is there than that? And so, with grateful hearts, let us practice connection by joining our voices together in prayer, saying the words your son taught us to pray...

## **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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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**

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

**LAMB OF GOD**

**Page 174**

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.**

**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 other.  
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, December 9

12:00 pm      Food Pantry & Clothing Closet  
6:00 pm      Council Meeting

### Tuesday, December 10

5:00 pm      Craft event at Dennys

### Wednesday, December 11

1:00 pm      Midweek Service  
2:00 pm      Bible Study  
6:00 pm      Choir Practice  
7:30 pm      Evening Service

### Thursday, December 12

7:30 pm      Al-Anon Meeting

### Friday, December 13

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

### Saturday, December 14

### Sunday, December 15

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

Online services are available via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/rlcfp/live](http://www.facebook.com/rlcfp/live)), YouTube ([www.youtube.com/rlcfp](http://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](https://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](http://www.youtube.com/rlcfp)).



The flowers today are from Barb Ziemer in memory of Ron.



The month of December we will continue “Cereal Sundays” and also add “Soup Sundays”. Thank you all who continue to support our food pantry!

Come out to Denny’s in Franklin Park on Tuesday, December 10 from 5-7 pm for a make and take craft event. This is an outreach opportunity for us that you won’t want to miss!



**Today is the last day to order poinsettias.**



**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.