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.

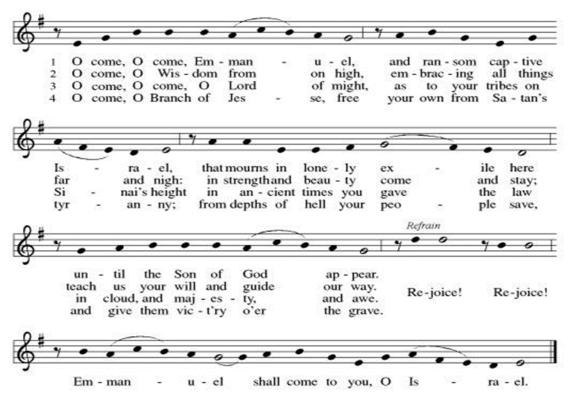
- C We are not alone.
- P For here in this place, God is weaving us together.
- C Light the candles! Sing with joy!
 We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

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



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

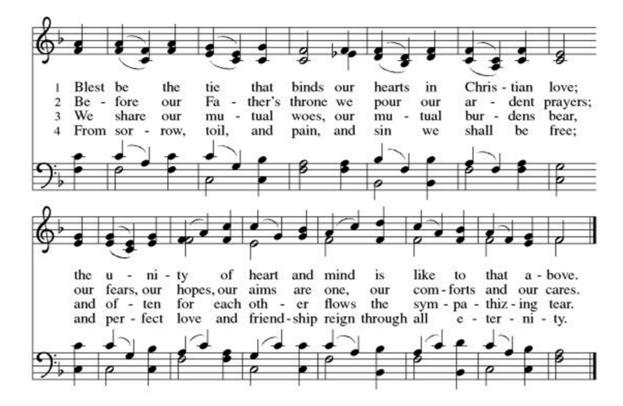
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF PEACE

OPENING HYMN ELW #656

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



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 ILLUNINATION

- 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

¹In 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. ²The 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. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These 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, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then 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. ⁷So 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. ⁸But 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. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." 11But 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? ¹²Turn 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, ¹³would 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." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her motherin-law, but Ruth clung to her.

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

¹⁷Where 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!"

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

¹⁹So 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?" ²⁰She said to them,

"Call me no longer Naomi,

call me Mara,

for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

²¹I 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?"

²²So 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)

 68 Blessed are you, Lord, the $^{\mid}$ God of Israel,

you have come to your people and | set them free.

You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,

born of the house of your servant David.

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies, | from the hands of | all who hate us,

72 to show mercy | to our forebears, and to remember your | holy covenant.

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:

74 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

75 holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to pre- pare the way,

to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For 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. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And 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

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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.

¹ 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, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ 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.

⁵ 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;

⁶ 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





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.

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

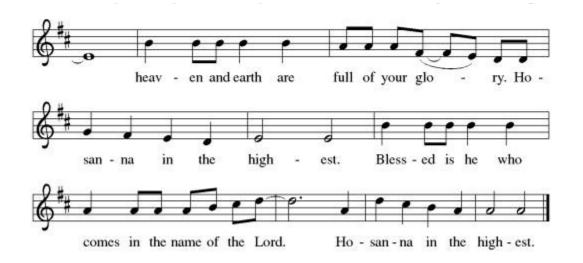
DIALOGUE

- 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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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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



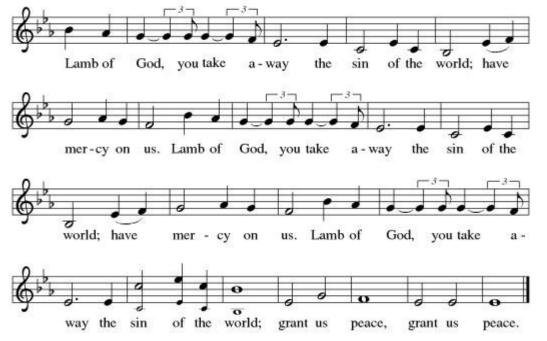


TABLE BLESSING

- 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), 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 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.