

Resurrection Lutheran Church

9777 Grand Avenue
Franklin Park, IL 60131
Phone: 847-455-7013
E-mail: office@rlcfp.org, Website: www.rlcfp.org

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 15, 2024—9:30 AM

Third 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

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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** "Teacher", the crowd asked, "What should we do?"
C **If you have two shirts, give one away. Hold onto hope.
Live like we belong to one another. Speak the truth.
Look for God.
Do the good that is yours to do.**
P It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.
C **Let us worship our present and active God.**

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

P In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

C **Let us start small.**

Let us begin with what is in front of us.

Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

P Yes, let us begin with joy.

Today we light the candles of hope, peace and joy.

C **May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action.**

May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

P May it be so! Amen.

HYMN

(verses 5 & 6)

ELW #257

**5 O 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**

**6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain**

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Friends, there are times when the weight of the world can feel so heavy on us.
Fortunately, when we come before God in confession, God removes that weight.
God sees our shame, our guilt, our sin, and offers us grace.
So join me in the prayer of confession. Come and allow yourself to be freed.
Come and allow yourself to begin again. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 **Liberating God,
There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days
when I doubt that I can make a difference.**



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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 Listening God,

C We know that you are constantly speaking to us. Through music, scripture, nature, and relationships, you make yourself known again and again.

In gratitude, we long to return the favor. In gratitude, we long to meet you halfway. So in this moment,

we are quieting the noise in our heads. We are closing our eyes.

We are leaning in.

We are listening.

We are doing the good that is ours to do. Speak to us through the chaos.

Speak to us as only you can.

With hope in our hearts we listen, we pray, amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-12

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6 (read responsively)

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not¹ be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become¹ my salvation.

³ **With joy you | will draw water
from the wells | of salvation.**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name | is
exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;
let this be known in | all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Liv - ing in the wil - der-ness, speak-ing to the see - kers
"Take on - ly what's yours to take; don't a - buse your debt - ors"
Some to hos - pi - tal - i - ty, some to ed - u - ca - tion



He had no pre - ten-tious-ness; he would tell you blunt - ly
Soldiers, shepherds, fish - er - men asked him the same ques - tion
All our gifts col - lec - tive - ly work to bring sal - va - tion



So they sought out his ad-vice on how to live just - ly
John re - spond - ed all the same, "Share all your pos - ses - sions"
Do the good that's yours to do with de - ter-min - a - tion

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?" Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

C **In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:**

Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world. Instead, hold fast to hope.

Roll up your sleeves.

Feed the hungry.

Tend the garden.

If you have two coats, give one away. Do the good that is yours to do.

In doing so, you will see God.

For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

P Loving Creator,

There are days when the world feels like it's on fire. There are days when we are inundated with bad news, days when we are up to our eyes in grief, days when we have reached the end of our rope.

On those days, loving God, we reach for you. On those days, we return to this sanctuary. On those days, we light candles. On those days, we sing.

On those days, we fight tooth and nail to hold onto hope.

So in an effort to release the fears that trap us, we name them aloud and give them to you. God, hear our prayers:

For wars that cannot find an end, for children who cannot find food, for teenagers who cannot find peace— Holy God, draw near.

For people who are lonely, for people spending their holidays in the hospital, for the tender challenge of every new beginning— Loving God, draw near.

And as you draw near, remind us that we too can make a difference. When the weight of the world overwhelms us, remind us that faith looks like giving your second coat away. Infuse us with hope.

Swat away our insecurities. Drown out our doubts.

Silence the fears that cage us and remind us that change always come from “small acts of great love.”

So with hope in our hearts, we roll up our sleeves.

With hope in our hearts, we strive to do the good that is ours to do.

With hope in our hearts, we unite our voices 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

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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 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 16

12:00 pm Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

Tuesday, December 17

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, December 20

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, December 21

Sunday, December 22

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 Irv & Kathy Kossack in celebration of their 62nd wedding anniversary.



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

Share the Gift

The Franklin Park American Legion Post 974 family is again hosting the Stand Down, a program to support Veterans in need. It will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at the Legion Hall at 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, Illinois. They will provide a hot meal, toiletries, and blankets, as well as a chance to speak with Veteran Service Organizations and other groups, about VA benefits, housing, transportation, and other services. If this is a cause you would like to support, we are accepting cash donations through Sunday December 29th and Share the Gift will match those donations up to the first \$500 received.



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.

