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 29, 2024—9:30 AM First Sunday of Christmas 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

This service is designed with the truth that the Christmas season is hallmarked by joy. The angels sing. The shepherds run. The star shines. Mary cherishes. Christ is born! In response to all this good news, we sing "Go Tell it on the Mountain" with grateful celebration. Therefore, this service is intentionally designed to lean into the holy joy of this season. This service invites worshipers to connect, clap, dance, laugh, and relish in the angel's promise that Christ brings joy to the world. The order of worship, inspired by a "Lessons & Carols" service, follows a "Lessons & Laughter" format.

WELCOME

CENTERING TIME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP - "What brings you joy?

P We know that joy has a contagious ripple effect...

Friends, having named so many sources of joy in our lives, join me in the opening litany:

- P We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—
- C God is in our joy.

- P God is in this room.
- C We have reason to celebrate.
- P We have a reason to sing.
- C Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- P Joyful God, you told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children.
- C Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?
- P In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,
- C this often seems easier said than done.
- P Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.
- C Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.
- P We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.
- C Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

- P Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
- C We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.
- P That is news worth celebrating! That is news that should make us want to cheer, laugh, cry with relief, dance, and sing all at the same time! So in response to God's goodness, I invite you to rise in body or spirit and join me in the sung response. Let us make a joyful noise for God's abundant mercy.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART



It Came upon the Midnight Clear



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 God of angel choruses and contagious laughter,
- C we know that you speak to us in the quiet. We know that when we bow our heads and fall to our knees, you are there, hovering close, calling our names. However, we also trust that when we throw our heads back in laughter, when

However, we also trust that when we throw our heads back in laughter, when we dance and clap with joy, when we skip and sing with gratitude, that even there, you are speaking.

So on this Sunday morning we pray:

open our ears and hearts to hear what it is that you are saying. Meet us in this joy. Meet us in this delight.

Meet us in the hope of this Christmas season and reveal the wisdom we need to hear today. With hearts full of gratitude we pray.

We laugh. We listen. We pray.

Amen.

LESSON ONE

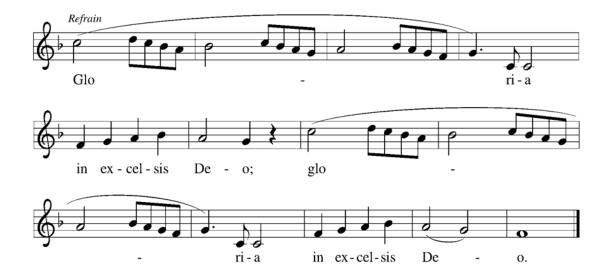
LISTEN FOR JOY / Luke 2:10; Isaiah 9:2-3

SING WITH JOY

An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains. 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long? him whose birth the Come to Beth - le - hem and see 3 an gels sing; the moun-tains ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. and in re - ply, What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song? bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the come, a - dore on new - born king.

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289



PRACTICE JOY | Joy found in Community

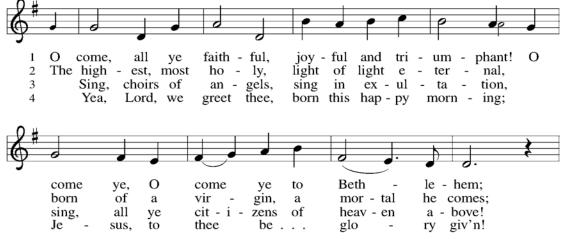
LESSON TWO

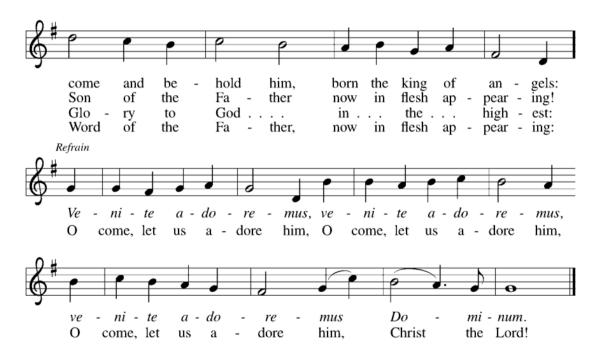
LISTEN FOR JOY | Matthew 2:10; Psalm 148

SING WITH JOY

ELW #283







PRACTICE JOY | Joy found in Prayer & Giving

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

C We are not alone, we live in God's joy-filled world.

We believe in God: who joyfully has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate with joy God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. With joy in our hearts we can declare: We are not alone! Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LESSON THREE

LISTEN FOR JOY | Psalm 126:1-3; Isaiah 55:12-13

SING WITH JOY

ELW #270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing





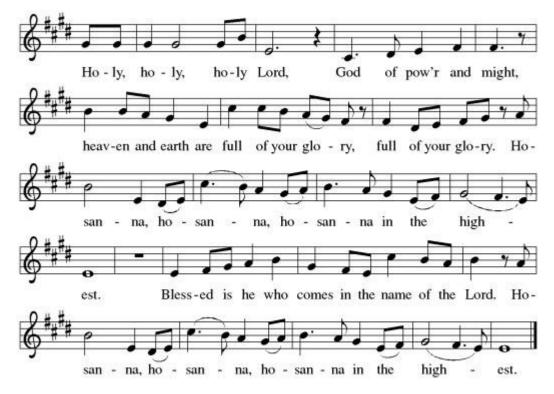
PRACTICE JOY | Joy found in Communion

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

Page 190



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

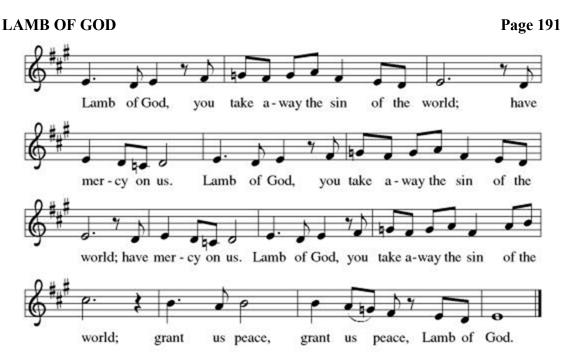


TABLE BLESSING

- 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. 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.

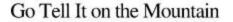
We are grateful. We are so grateful.

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.





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, December 30 12:00 pm Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

Tuesday, December 31

Wednesday, January 11:00 pmMidweek Service2:00 pmBible Study7:30 pmEvening Service

Thursday, January 2 7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, January 3 Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, January 4

Sunday, January 5

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 from Sue Koevenig in memory of her brother Eric's birthday.



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

Share the Gift - Last Sunday for donations

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 today 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.